

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: WATER BOTTLING OF GROUNDWATER

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council write a letter to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Honourable George Heyman, calling for a moratorium on new water bottling licences.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

At the Environment Committee held on 2021 September 14, correspondence was received from Mr. Bruce Gibbons asking that the City of Burnaby add their voices to the call for the provincial government to enact the 2019 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) resolution and take action by calling for a moratorium on new water bottling licenses.

In 2019, the UBCM members passed a resolution asking the provincial government to stop approving licences for the bottling and commercial sale and bulk export of groundwater. To date, the provincial government has not taken action on the request and continues to entertain applications for water bottling of British Columbia's groundwater.

2.0 POLICY

The City advocating to protect and conserve water supports a number of the goals within the City's Climate Action Plan. It also supports the City's Corporate Strategic Plan, as follows:

Goals

- A Healthy Community
 - Healthy life – encourage opportunities for healthy living and well-being.

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- Healthy environment – enhance our environmental health resilience and sustainability
- A Connected Community
 - Partnership – work collaboratively with businesses, educational institutions, associations, other communities and governments.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

The Environment Committee recommends that Council write a letter to Honourable George Hyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, calling for a moratorium on new water bottling licenses.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor J. Keithley
Chair

Councillor C. Jordan
Vice Chair

Copied to:	Chief Administrative Officer Director Corporate Services Director Engineering Director Planning and Building Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
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