

REPORT

Planning and Development

To: Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council
Date: May 6, 2024

From: Jackie Teed,
Director, Planning and Development
File: Doc#2479482
Item #: 2024-257

Subject: **Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 220 Salter Street
(Metro Vancouver Sewer Inspection – Fraser River Crossing Project)**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council grant an exemption from *Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992* to Metro Vancouver contractor AquaCoustic Remote Technologies Inc. for two weeknights from Tuesday, May 21, 2024 to Friday, May 31, 2024 from 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and Statutory holidays to perform overnight video and sonar inspections of the sewer lines at 220 Salter Street.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to request an exemption from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 to Metro Vancouver contractor AquaCoustic Remote Technologies Inc. to perform preventative maintenance of the sewer lines at 220 Salter Street.

BACKGROUND

The Metro Vancouver Sewer Interceptor connects the City of New Westminster and other municipalities' wastewater to a treatment plant before discharging into waterways. Maintenance of the sewage system benefit all lower mainland residents. Video and sonar inspections of these sewer lines are needed to support ongoing maintenance programs to avoid any future failures for nearby residents and businesses.

AquaCoustic Remote Technologies Inc. has been contracted by Metro Vancouver to conduct the video and sonar inspections of the sewer lines during overnight hours from 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM for two weeknights during the requested exemption period.

ANALYSIS

The work is essentially preventative in nature and involves conducting sonar inspections of the sewer lines to support ongoing maintenance programs with the goal being to avoid future failures for nearby residents and businesses.

The proposed work includes using a small crane truck to temporarily remove two steel utility hole lids to facilitate access of the inspection platform into the sewer line. A camera will then be inserted and remotely operated from the inspection platform and will travel the length of the required sewer segment. Two small generators, operating in close proximity to the inspection vehicle and utility holes, will supply power to the camera inspection. Upon completion of the inspection, the platform will be removed and the utility hole lids replaced. Work will be conducted at the two utility holes simultaneously.

The New Westminster Sewer Interceptor carries extremely high sewage flows during daytime hours. To capture the maximum surface area of the pipe's interior, maintenance work on the interceptor must be performed during low flow levels, i.e. between midnight and 6:00 AM. The work also requires dry weather as only then can the sonar detect scans below the water line. To accommodate the possibility of inclement weather, AquaCoustic Remote Technologies Inc. is requesting an additional seven weeknights in the request to Council for unforeseeable weather delays.

DISCUSSION

Some noise is expected to be generated from removal and replacement of the utility hole lids and from the operation of the two small generators, however, overall noise disruptions are expected to be minimal.

There are no businesses near the work site and the nearest residences are approximately 20 metres away. To ensure the least impact possible to the local residents, AquaCoustic Remote Technologies Inc. has committed to using noise cancelling shrouds over both generators and to implementing the following noise mitigation measures:

- Ensuring all equipment is in good operating order.
- Operating equipment at minimum engine speeds consistent with effective operation.
- Sound deadeners will be used to minimize the noise from generators.
- Generators will be placed facing away from buildings (ie. towards the street to minimize noise impact)
- Crew members will keep conversation levels to a minimum.
- Avoiding unnecessary idling, and revving of work vehicles.
- Turning off equipment when not in use.
- Locating stationary noise generating equipment as far away as possible from noise sensitive receivers.

- Providing a night time contact person and respond to any calls from affected residents. Contact information will be included in the Notification to Residents.

Notices will be sent to area residents in a one block radius via hand by field crews 48 hours prior to the commencement of work. Notices will also be posted to all front door lobby entrances of multi-dwelling buildings. Appendix A provides an aerial view of the inspection area of 220 Salter Street. Appendix B provides a sample notification to residents.

No transportation implications are expected to be associated with this exemption request.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial impact to the City is anticipated by granting the exemption. If the exemption is not granted, the project will likely be delayed which may result in financial impacts for the applicant.

OPTIONS

There are two options to consider:

1. That Council grant an exemption from *Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992* to Metro Vancouver contractor AquaCoustic Remote Technologies Inc. for two weeknights from Tuesday, May 21, 2024 to Friday, May 31, 2024 from 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and Statutory holidays to perform overnight video and sonar inspections of the sewer lines at 220 Salter Street.
2. That Council provide staff with alternative direction.

Staff recommend Option 1.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Map of Area of Inspection Maintenance Work Area
Appendix B: Notification to Residents

APPROVALS

This report has been prepared by:
Bal Varn, Senior Property Use Coordinator, Integrated Services

This report was reviewed by:
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This report was approved by:
Jackie Teed, Director, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Lisa Leblanc, Acting Chief Administrative Officer