

# **REPORT**

## ***Climate Action, Planning and Development***

**To:** Mayor Cote and Members of Council      **Date:** November 15, 2021

**From:** Emilie K. Adin, MCIP      **File:** 05.1020.20  
Director, Climate Action, Planning and  
Development

**Item #:** 2021-539

**Subject:** Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: New Westminster  
Interceptor – Sapperton Connection along East Columbia Street

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** Council grant an exemption to AquaCoustic Remote Technologies Inc. from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 from Sunday November 21, 2021 to Wednesday December 22, 2021 for two nights from 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM to conduct overnight sonar inspections of the sewer lines along East Columbia Street between Cumberland Street and Debeck Street.

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### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to request Council grant an exemption from the Construction Noise Bylaw to permit overnight sonar inspections of the sewer lines in Sapperton along East Columbia Street between Cumberland Street and Debeck Street.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **Project Description**

The Metro Vancouver Sewer Interceptors convey the City's and other municipalities' wastewater to a treatment plant before being discharged into the waterways. Maintenance of the sewerage system benefit all lower mainland residents. Sonar inspections of these sewer lines are needed to support ongoing maintenance programs to avoid any future failures for nearby residents and businesses.

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 can only be performed during dry weather and during low flow periods. Low flow periods typically occur between the hours of midnight and 6:00 AM.

AquaCoustic Remote Technologies Inc. has been contracted by Metro Vancouver to conduct sonar inspections of the sewer lines during overnight hours.

## **DISCUSSION**

AquaCoustic is requesting an exemption for two nights from 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM to occur between Sunday November 21, 2021 and Wednesday December 22, 2021 to conduct sonar inspection of Metro Vancouver sewer lines along East Columbia Street between Cumberland Street and Debeck Street. Sewer flows are at their lowest overnight and low flows expose the maximum surface area of the pipe's interior. Traffic impact is also lowest overnight. The work is weather dependent and should take place during a light to no rain period in order for the sonar to detect scans below the water line. To enable AquaCoustic to capture the right conditions, a one month window for the two day exemption is requested.

During the sonar inspection, work crews will be stationed at both the upstream and downstream utility holes at the same time. The work would involve removing the utility hole lids and inserting an inspection platform into the sewer line. It is operated remotely from the surface and will travel the length of the required sewer segment. Once complete, the inspection platform is retrieved, utility hole lids replaced and the site cleaned as required. An overview of the New Westminster Interceptor Project along East Columbia Street is attached as Appendix A.

### **Area Notification and Traffic Impact**

Noise will be generated from the operation of two small generators and two work vehicles. The following steps will be taken by the contractor to mitigate the noise at the work site:

- Sound deadeners will be used to minimize the noise from the generators.
- Vehicles and equipment will be operated only as needed.
- Crew members will keep their conversation volume to a minimum.
- Site contact information (provided in notifications) will enable residents and/or businesses to have their questions or concerns quickly addressed.
- Equipment will be checked to ensure good working order prior to mobilizing at the work site.

Businesses and area residents potentially impacted by the noise will be notified a week prior to the work. Field crews will deliver hard-copy notices to individual residences and/or businesses, or post a notice at the front door lobby entrance of multi-dwelling units. A sample of notification is attached as Appendix B.

AquaCoustic will be applying for a Street Occupancy Permit with City Engineering – Transportation division as utility holes are located on the south bound right lane on Columbia Street. Crews will use traffic cones around the work zone and place advanced warning signs for drivers. Pedestrians should not be affected by the work area.

## **OPTIONS**

There are two options to consider:

1. That Council grant an exemption to AquaCoustic Remote Technologies Inc. from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 from Sunday November 21, 2021 to Wednesday December 22, 2021 for two nights from 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM to conduct overnight sonar inspections of the sewer lines along East Columbia Street between Cumberland Street and Debeck Street.
2. That Council provide staff with alternative direction.

Staff recommends option 1.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix A: Overview of the New Westminster Interceptor Project along East Columbia Street.

Appendix B: Sample of notification for area residents and businesses.

## **APPROVALS**

This report was prepared by:  
Nav Dhanoya, Construction Impacts Coordinator

This report was reviewed by:  
Kim Deighton, Manager of Licensing and Integrated Services

This report was approved by:  
Emilie K. Adin, Director, Climate Action, Planning and Development  
Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer