
2007 BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Reallocation of Additional Funds to Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection Reserve

Issue/Background:

- The City has taken an active role to protect water quality within its boundaries and improve water quality within Lake Ontario, particularly the nearshore area; the City's drinking water source, through the Wet Weather Flow Master Plan (WWFMP), approved by Council in September 2003.
- The first priority of Source Water Protection for the City is to address the issue of combined sewer overflows through the implementation of the Wet Weather Flow Master Plan.
- In recognition that the acquisition of land, to prevent future development, can contribute to the protection of the City's source water through the removal of property from urban development, City Council directed Toronto Water to allocate a combined \$2.5 million through its capital budget in 2005 and 2006 to Land Acquisition for Source Protection and it is noted that these land purchases were predominantly outside of Toronto.
- The 2007 Recommended Capital Budget includes a reallocation of \$1.508 million from the Wet Weather Flow Master Plan funding to Land Acquisition that equates to 0.25% of the recommended water rate increase.
- Staff have been requested to investigate the viability of increasing the reallocation to 0.5%, or an equivalent reallocation of \$1.508 million.

Key Points:

- Toronto Water's recommended 2007 Capital Budget includes approximately \$21 million for the implementation of WWFMP initiatives and projects. These expenditures are directed at improving water quality within area watercourses and the waterfront and include such projects as the completion of the Ellis Avenue/Colbourne Lodge Stormwater Management Project, construction of the Earl Bales Park Stormwater Management Project, the Don Trunk/Cowell Trunk Twinning Environmental Assessment, along with stream restoration projects.
- The WWFMP is expected to be the foundation of the City's contribution towards the Source Water Protection Plan being developed through the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, in accordance with the requirements of the Province's Clean Water Act and reallocating a further \$1.508 million from this budget, in 2007, would further impact the City's ability to deliver on the implementation of the Plan.

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