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TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON DECEMBER 16, 2014
FROM:	JAY STANFORD, M.A., M.P.A. DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENT, FLEET & SOLID WASTE
SUBJECT:	W12A LANDFILL PUBLIC LIAISON COMMITTEE PROPOSED WATER SUPPLY FUND

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Director Environment, Fleet & Solid Waste, the use of \$180,000 from the Community Mitigative Measures Fund to subsidize point of source water treatment systems for homes in the vicinity of the W12A landfill **BE APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE** it being noted details on the program including the amount that will be subsidized, who qualifies, etc. will be brought back for final approval at a future meeting.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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Relevant reports that can be found at www.london.ca under City Hall (Meetings) include:

- Minor Revisions to W12A Landfill Site Community Enhancement and Mitigative Measures Program, Civic Works Committee (CWC) Meeting on October 6, 2014, Agenda Item 10
- W12A Landfill Community Mitigative Measures Fund – Glanworth Library CWC Meeting on May 27, 2013, Agenda Item 5
- Updates to W12A Landfill Site Community Enhancement and Mitigative Measures Program, Environment & Transportation Committee (ETC) Meeting on May 10, 2010, Agenda Item #12
- W12A Landfill Community Enhancement and Mitigative Measures Program, ETC Meeting on May 11, 2009, Agenda Item #12

BACKGROUND

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek approval in principle from Committee and Council for the W12A Landfill Public Liaison Committee (PLC) to use up to \$180,000 from the Community Mitigative Measures Fund to subsidize point-of-source water treatment systems for homes in the vicinity of the W12A landfill.

CONTEXT

The Community Enhancement and Mitigative Measures Program is part of the City's overall efforts to reduce or address the negative effects of the landfill on the local community around the landfill. The majority of new and expanded landfills in Ontario have a mixture of mitigative measures, community enhancement and/or compensation programs.

Development of the Community Enhancement and Mitigative Measures Program for the City of London was completed through a comprehensive process that included reviewing comparable programs in other municipalities and providing the local community with several opportunities to comment on what should be included in the program. The program was established by by-law in 2009 and includes a property value protection plan, Community Mitigative Measures Fund and establishment of a PLC.

The Community Mitigative Measures Fund receives \$0.28 for each tonne of waste (indexed to inflation) disposed of at the landfill and currently has a balance of \$635,000. The payment to the Community Mitigative Measures Fund is equivalent to the payment the City formerly made to the Town of Westminster prior to the Town being amalgamated. Money from the fund can be spent on expenses of the PLC and projects recommended by the PLC and approved by Council. The only money spent from the fund to date was \$15,000 towards the reconstruction of the Glanworth Library.

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DISCUSSION

Groundwater

Many residents in the area around the landfill do not have access to municipal water and rely on groundwater as their source of water. Water is typically obtained from one of two sand/silt aquifers that underlie the area. Some deeper wells take their water from the bedrock.

Generally the water quality from all three sources is of poor quality as a result of one or more elevated parameters including sulphates, total dissolved solids, sodium, iron, manganese and/or hardness. The elevated levels of the above mentioned parameters are naturally occurring and not caused by the City's landfill. This has been confirmed by the City's on-going groundwater monitoring program.

The elevated levels of these parameters are not a health concern but do cause aesthetic impacts such as staining of plumbing fixtures, calcium build up, excessive use of soap required for laundry/bathing and poor tasting water.

Water Supply Options

The PLC would like to provide better quality water to residents relying on groundwater in the vicinity of the landfill and have looked at three options to achieve this:

- municipal water supply – long term solution but costly and has technical constraints (e.g., long distances between homes and limited draw of water means additional measures are required to maintain chlorine levels),
- bulk water filling station/cistern system – lower cost but inconvenient for many residents and requires room for water storage at home, and
- point of source treatment systems – may require on-going administration of program but reasonable cost and no technical issues.

City Water Engineering staff provided technical comments and conceptual levels cost estimates to the PLC on all three options based on our understanding of local conditions coupled with our knowledge of water supply and distribution systems.

Proposed Program

As a result of this review, the PLC is recommending that \$180,000 from the Community Mitigative Measures Fund be used to subsidize point of source water treatment systems for individual homes. Staff supports this recommendation.

The PLC is seeking confirmation from Council that they support the suggested program in principle prior to working out the logistics on how the program would work, the level of funding, who would qualify, etc. Committee and Council would approve these aspects of the program at a future meeting.

Other key information about the potential program and private water wells in the area are:

- it is expected that the PLC will recommend that the subsidy on water treatment systems be limited to homes within 2.5 kilometers of the special policy area around the landfill,
- there are approximately 160 homes on water wells in this area,
- some of the wells in the area will not require treatment,
- many homeowners have already installed water treatment systems and it will likely be proposed not to provide a subsidy retroactively,
- the cost of installing a point of source treatment system will typically vary from \$3,000 to \$7,000 depending on the level of treatment required, and
- the PLC may ask for that more money go towards this program in the future depending on the success of the program.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was prepared with assistance from Mike Losee, Manager - Solid Waste Engineering & Planning and Maaik Vanjecek - Solid Waste Technician.

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c Jack Sifton, Chair, W12A Landfill Public Liaison Committee