

July 31, 2017

The Honorable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada  
200 Sacré-Coeur Boulevard, Gatineau QC K1A 0H3

Dear Minister McKenna,

*Catherine!*

**Re: Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Project (Registry Ref. No. 80123)**

The City of Calgary strongly supports the Government of Alberta's Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Project (Springbank Project) as a vital contribution to flood mitigation for Calgary. Without upstream mitigation in place, Calgary's exposure to damage from river flooding continues to be significant. The Springbank Project is estimated to reduce Calgary's flood damage by 80 per cent on the Elbow River for an event similar to what Calgary experienced in 2013.

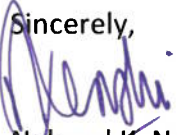
Due to the critical nature of this project, I respectfully request a timely decision and process by the Federal Government with respect to the environmental assessment required for this project. The Federal Court of Canada ruled on June 9, 2017 that the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency did not have the jurisdiction to decide whether to conduct the environmental assessment by "desk review" or by "panel review". That decision rests with you as the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change. The City of Calgary is formally requesting that the environmental assessment not be referred to a review panel. A review panel would add significant delay to this project, leaving Calgary vulnerable to another significant flood and is not in the public interest. Rigorous effort has already been put into the environmental assessment by Alberta Transportation, and The City's river engineers have also contributed their expertise to ensure that environmental, technical, and operational issues are addressed and meet the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* requirements.

As a municipality, we have a responsibility to protect the safety of our citizens, critical infrastructure, and communities from flooding. To fulfill this responsibility, we need assurance that mitigation efforts are progressing. The Springbank Project significantly affects The City of Calgary's local flood mitigation investment decisions, and in our current

economic times, it is more important than ever to invest taxpayer dollars effectively and efficiently.

A thorough and timely review of this project is essential to ensure the least amount of impact for the greatest benefit. We value a healthy, resilient watershed that will continue to provide reliable clean water for current and future generations and ecosystem services for all Albertans.

The urgency of this project cannot be overstated. Over one million Calgarians will rely on the Springbank Project to protect public safety, critical infrastructure and vital services (i.e. - drinking water and wastewater treatment), reduce flood damage to private property and businesses, and help protect one of Canada's economic engines – Calgary's downtown core - from future flood damage.

Sincerely,  
  
 Naheed K. Nenshi  
 MAYOR

*Thank you for your attention to this. It's critical to protect people's lives, property & vital infrastructure.*

cc: Hon. Brian Mason, M.L.A., Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation,  
 Government of Alberta  
 Calgary City Council  
 Jeff Fielding, City Manager, The City of Calgary  
 Brad Stevens, Deputy City Manager, The City of Calgary  
 Dan Limacher, General Manager, UEP, The City of Calgary  
 Rob Spackman, Director, Water Resources, The City of Calgary  
 Calgary Rivers Communities Action Group  
 Hon. Greg Clark, M.L.A., Calgary Elbow