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Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Project  
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June 14, 2018

To Whom it May Concern:

**RE: Another 5 Billion Dollars of Losses Around the Corner- Elbow Park a Hodgepodge of Vacant Lots and Unsold Builds**

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I am writing in response to the April 30, 2018, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) invitation for public comment on the Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Project (Project).

Firstly, it is my understanding that the revised March 29, 2018, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submission prepared by Stantec Consulting Ltd. for Alberta Transportation reflects a comprehensive and thorough assessment of potential environmental effects associated with the Project. The EIS concludes that the Project is not likely to result in significant adverse residual environmental effects. The assessment includes a robust comparison of alternatives and reinforces that the Project is the best option for upstream flood mitigation on the Elbow River.

Following the flood of June 2013 it was concluded that the risk of another major flood occurring in the foreseeable future was very real, even without considering the potential effects of global warming. Engineering assessment conducted immediately following that flood identified evidence of historic floods in 1878, 1897, 1902, 1923, 1929 and 1932 with peak flows that would have resulted in devastating consequences similar to those experienced in June 2013. Three of these floods occurred in a period of nine years. Note that 3 x \$5 billion equals \$15 billion in damages, and other consequences to community livelihood that cannot be quantified.

**It is now five years since the flood of June 2013 and little has been done to protect the communities located along the Elbow River downstream of the Glenmore Reservoir. Previous study indicated that the existing Glenmore Reservoir, if drained in advance of a flood, can provide a maximum of 15 million cubic metres of flood storage. This is far less than the absolute minimum of 83 million cubic metres storage required to manage a flood of 2013 magnitude. It is understood that the Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Project will provide the additional flood storage ie at least 68 million cubic metres.**

The ongoing gate rehabilitation at Glenmore Reservoir will provide potential to surcharge Glenmore Reservoir above normal levels during an extreme flood, a feature that did not previously exist, thereby providing a small increase in available flood storage, with a total Glenmore Reservoir storage capacity of approximately 20% of that which is required for 2013 flood magnitude protection. When completed these new gates will provide some additional protection from smaller floods but would provide no additional protection from larger floods as noted above.

A flood of similar size to any of the historic floods identified above, occurring now or after Glenmore gate rehabilitation is complete, would result in similar devastating consequences to our communities, to those experienced in 2013. We understand that considering the above noted historic flood data indicates we have more than a 5% annual risk of City prompted mass evacuation and resulting flood damages within our communities every spring. Each spring we live in fear of another such devastating flood. Property owners can only monitor flood risk and move to high ground if such an event occurs.

Considering the more than 100 years of historic flood data, it has been estimated that the Elbow River floodplain development located downstream of Glenmore Reservoir has the highest flood risk of any major development in North America. It is estimated to be higher risk than major developments in much of the developing world. Construction of the Springbank Reservoir Project would increase our level of flood protection from the current 1:20 year event level of protection to 1:200 year

event protection. This is a big step in the right direction. Note that by comparison the City of Winnipeg is protected from the 1:700 year event following their history of devastating floods.

Government has been totally aware of the flood risk downstream of Glenmore Reservoir for several decades. This is documented in government commissioned studies dating back to the 1970's and 1980's. Study reports indicated that upstream storage was required. Similarly, these studies indicated that it was not a question of if, but when, flood devastation would occur if storage was not provided. Nearly 50 years and 5 billion dollars in losses later, nothing has changed. Government needs to take responsibility for what has happened, and aggressively take action against the repeat of such occurrence. It will be a sad day for the residents of Calgary, and all responsible elected officials and decision makers, if such a flood event occurs before protection is provided. Even with immediate project approval, we are still at risk for another 3 years ie the construction period.

The residents of our communities find it difficult to understand why it has taken another five years to select the correct flood mitigation option, particularly considering the high risk and extreme consequences of a devastating flood event occurring. That said we are convinced, and have been for some time, that the Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Project is the correct project choice, and the time to act is now. The project is supported by all three levels of government and is urgently required to address flooding risk.

It is in the public interest that the Project regulatory review is expedited and, given the additional information that the CEAA has already requested and received from the proponent, I respectfully ask that CEAA prepare the draft Environmental Assessment Report as quickly as possible and recommend that the Minister decide that the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.

Our home and community were devastated in 2013. We were fortunate enough to be able to rebuild our home on Edison Crescent in Elbow Park, however many of our neighbours were not. Once a vibrant and beautiful community, Elbow Park is now a hodgepodge of vacant lots and homes in varying stages of rebuild. We miss our neighbourhood, and fear that another flood would result in the neighbourhood being devastated beyond repair. Taxes are increasing steadily, as predicted as many have left to higher ground. In closing our neighborhood is not protected as promised by law from an economic disaster.