



Calgary

Naheed K. Nenshi, Mayor

December 10, 2018

Reeve Greg Boehlke
Office of the Reeve
262075 Rocky View Point
Rocky View County
Alberta, T4A 0X2

Dear ~~Reeve Boehlke~~, *Greg!*

Re: Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir

I understand that Rocky View Country (RVC) Council will be considering an administrative recommendation to adopt an advocacy position against the Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir (SR1) at a meeting tomorrow and I am writing to share The City of Calgary's concerns about this position.

As you know, it has now been five-and-a-half years since the 2013 floods ravaged downtown Calgary, destroying homes and businesses, crippling our downtown core and having a huge impact on the lives of Calgarians. After much expert analysis over several years, it is clear that moving forward with SR1 is critical to protecting Calgary. To take a position against SR1 now risks further delays that Calgary and the region simply cannot afford.

The analysis being presented to RVC Council tomorrow fails to consider that the two flood mitigation infrastructure projects in your administration's recommendation would face considerable challenges in passing the review conducted by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, leaving Calgary vulnerable to significant flood damage if another flood to occur. Furthermore, I note that two successive provincial governments have studied the options extensively and concluded that SR1 is preferable from a cost-benefit, social and environmental perspective.

Downtown Calgary is our most significant regional asset. The prosperity of the region, the province and indeed the country have been built upon the success of Calgary's city centre. But more than five years after the 2013 flood, Calgary's downtown remains exposed to significant flooding risk from both rivers, but particularly the Elbow River. It has taken much longer than necessary to get shovels in the ground on SR1 as such a critical piece of infrastructure. The time for reconsideration of other projects or significant

changes in direction on SR1 has long passed given the lengthy project planning and approval processes both provincially and federally.

When taking a position on the available options was still a reasonable action in the planning process in March of 2015, my council endorsed the following:

The City continues to support the Springbank Off Stream Reservoir Project (SR1) as the most cost-beneficial option from both a flood mitigation and environmental impact perspective. SR1 is critical to protect downtown and Elbow River communities. In combination with new gates on the Glenmore Dam, this project will mitigate damage caused on the Elbow River by a flood event similar to 2013.

SR1 will reduce flood risk on the Elbow River by as much as 80%. It will reduce flood damages to Elbow River communities by an average of \$30 million per year, or over \$3 billion through the next century. With SR1 in operation, The City will be able to focus on flood mitigation for the Bow River, where of the majority of The City's flood risk will remain after SR1 is built. The RVC report addresses the need to consider water supply and regional drought protection. The City agrees that a *future* upstream flood mitigation project on the Bow River should consider these critical issues.

RVC adopting a position against SR1 could have significant negative impacts to Calgary and we ask RVC Council, as a regional partner with significant ties to our City, to vote against adopting this position.

Sincerely,



Naheed K. Nenshi

MAYOR

cc: Calgary City Council
Rocky View Council