



ALBERTA

ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTED AREAS

Office of the Minister

December 19, 2023

Mr. Tony Morris
Ms. Brenda Leeds Binder
Co-Presidents
Calgary River Communities Action Group
tony.morris.emails@gmail.com
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Dear Mr. Morris and Ms. Leeds Binder:

Thank you for your letter about the department's plan to release and engage the public on draft flood hazard mapping for Calgary. Thank you also for your kind words about my video message for the Calgary River Communities Action Group (CRCAG) annual general meeting on November 8, 2023.

I understand you met with department staff on November 16, 2023, to discuss your concerns in more detail, and that CRCAG is requesting draft flood hazard maps for Calgary not be released for public engagement because they do not reflect future flood mitigation from either Springbank Off-stream Reservoir (SR1) operation or planned Sunnyside Barrier upgrades.

Public engagement on draft flood maps is part of our standard finalization process for new flood studies. The new Bow and Elbow River Flood Hazard study that includes Calgary is one of the 27 draft studies that provide more than 1,600 kilometres of new or updated flood hazard mapping through more than 65 municipalities and First Nations across Alberta.

Environment and Protected Areas released draft flood inundation maps for Calgary in November 2020 and completed public engagement on foundational study components. This included revising draft maps to show the protection provided by nine new or upgraded flood berms built along the Bow River in Calgary, as well as additional new berms built along the Elbow River in Bragg Creek.

I understand you are most concerned about the release of draft maps that include new or updated flood hazard zones based on current conditions in areas where future mitigation will significantly change the maps.

Engagement is one of the mechanisms that allows the department to receive, consider, and incorporate feedback from the public about draft flood maps. While the department will be proceeding with public engagement for draft flood hazard maps in Calgary, I am pleased to confirm we will be adjusting our approach to address your most significant concerns.

All zoning information in the draft flood hazard area along the Elbow River between Glenmore Dam and the Bow River confluence, where the future impacts of SR1 will be most significant, will be removed from our online flood map viewer and redacted from draft reports as part of the engagement. No new information about the 1:100 flood area along this portion of the Elbow River will be released, and the area will not be divided into floodway, flood fringe, high hazard flood fringe, or protected flood fringe zones. In addition, the department will add new functionality to our online flood map viewer to provide users with relevant pop-up information about future SR1 revisions.

Unlike SR1, there is no firm completion timeline for planned Sunnyside Barrier upgrades; therefore, the department will not be changing how draft flood mapping is displayed behind the Sunnyside Barrier, and engagement for mapping along the Bow River though Calgary will proceed as planned.

I am pleased to confirm the department is committed to timely future flood maps revisions. Staff are already working the City of Calgary and others to be ready to release revised maps when SR1 is fully operational and when planned upgrades to Sunnyside Barrier are complete.

Again, thank you for your letter and your strong advocacy for flood mitigation and resilience for Calgarians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Schulz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Rebecca Schulz
Minister