



Public Submission

City Clerk's Office

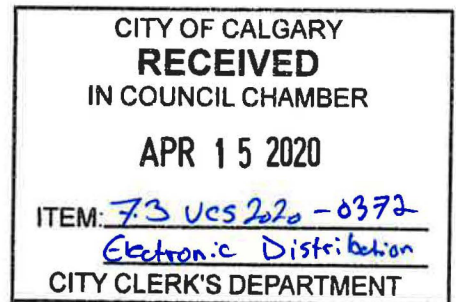
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\* I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda

\* First name: Susan  
\* Last name: Baldrey  
Email: bownesian4@gmail.com  
Phone: 403 630 6106  
\* Subject: Bowness Barrier Project



ATTN: CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE,

I am writing this letter to Council Committee regarding the Bowness Barrier Project, which I am not in agreement with. I do understand the concerns of flood mitigation as it is a concern for many Calgarians.

The City's plan to build a barrier will destroy the area where many trees have created habitat, shade and a home for fish and wildlife. Mother Nature has done an amazing job providing these needs.

The proposal of the removal of almost 4 kilometers of plant material at a width of 30' would be catastrophic! There are many mature Spruce, Balsam Poplar, River Birch and Douglas fir that have extensive root systems. How does the city plan to repair the damage to the ecosystem and microclimate?  
A clay / loam mixture that doesn't attach to bedrock and address groundwater is a band - aide project that will waste millions of tax payers dollars. A good example of a waste of city money is the project at Dale Hodge's Park. The soil used for this project was contaminated with weeds and had workers hand picking them for two years? It's still full of weeds. The boardwalks were built entering into storm ponds? How will Dale Hodges in his wheelchair navigate that gross error? The same company is going to build the barrier?



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I am educated in Horticulture and have owned my own garden design business for 29 years. I have worked on many large projects and understand the process of removal and replacement. The social impact this is going to have on the community is something they won't understand until they visually see the murder of the landscape. The stress of four years of chainsaws, wood chippers, excavators, dump trucks and dust. How do we mentally prepare for that? The families that have created their own urban forest will be devastated.

Many families have lived through the flood, lost their homes, rebuilt their homes and lives. Now the economic downturn and pandemic. The stress of this will be unbearable. Does they City Council truly believe they can do this project within this projected budget? Upstream mitigation is the answer!

HABITAT, the natural environment of a living thing.

Kind Regards,

Susan Baldrey  
Vintage Garden Design Inc.



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\* I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

\* First name **Paul**

\* Last name **Hood**

Email

Phone

\* Subject **Bowness Berm Construction and the need for upstream mitigation before the berm is built.**

\* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

Building a berm in Bowness to protect the community to a height to withstand a 1 in 20 year flood plus freeboard does nothing to protect Bowness from 1 in 50 or greater event without upstream mitigation. In fact, the risk of the berm bursting a stress points in an overtopping event would create serious damage as the river would carve a new channel (or channels) through Bowness destroying houses in it's path. (Similar to when a dam bursts). If an event similar to 2013 occurred (about a 1 in 70 event), the berm fail at appoints or points, due mainly to the strength of the river flow causing dangerous destruction, after which Bowness would fill up to similar levels as before. So do the groundwater studied, cost estimates etc. but don't build the berm until upstream mitigation is in place. If you need a visual, imagine building a dam across the Bow River designed to hold back river flow up to a 1 in 20 level plus 0.5m freeboard, and then tell people downstream that it's OK, because we are hoping that we don't get a 2013 flood event anytime soon, but don't worry because one day the Alberta Government will put in upstream mitigation which will protect you. In the meantime, we will spend your tax-payers dollars on something which could burst and flood and cause countless dollars of damage. Maybe you should spend money preparing for the yearly return of Covid-19 and better inspections of seniors nursing homes, building a berm to protect 400 houses in Bowness no longer sounds like a priority.



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\* First name **Geoff**

\* Last name **Wilcox**

Email **geoffwilcox@shaw.ca**

Phone **403 286-7643**

\* Subject **Calgary's Flood Resiliency Plan UTILITY and CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

\* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters) **Bowness Barrier questions from a taxpayer**

Geoff Wilcox  
5840 Bow Cres NW,  
Calgary, Alberta

April 10, 2020,

Members of the Standing Policy Committee (SPC) on Utilities and Corporate Services (UCS)

**Re: Submission for annual flood mitigation update**

Dear Members,

As a taxpaying citizen of Calgary and directly impacted resident, I have a vested interest in the success of flood resiliency strategy and planning.

The City has yet to meet any stated time lines on this project and released no budget detailing ongoing work in Bowness. Due to a significant push back from well informed citizens, and technical ineptitude on the part of the City, significant additional research, public engagement and ultimately planning revision has been incurred in the last year.

I would like to know the status of the revised plan, the current estimated time of completing this new plan and when it is anticipated to be released to the public.

As part of this update, and recognizing the particularly difficult times we all face I think it is reasonable to ask three simple questions related to expenditure;

- 1) What cost has the city has incurred in the last year?
- 2) What is the entire expenditure incurred to date related to the Bowness barrier?
- 3) Is the City within budget for this component of its flood resiliency plan?

I am also curious as to how planning has been altered by technical concerns identified by citizens of the community, and if newly anticipated Provincial infrastructure will make any barrier construction unnecessary.

Groundwater incursion was responsible for the majority of damage to Bowness residences during both the 2005 and 2013 flood events. In order to address this issue and gain a better understanding of groundwater flow, the City has undertaken the drilling of additional groundwater monitoring wells. How many additional wells were drilled and how has this impacted costs in the last twelve months?

In order to reduce or eliminate elevated water tables caused by barrier construction, it is commonly understood that sheet piles must be driven to un-weathered bedrock. Such construction is considerably more costly than simply building a berm on existing ground.

Achieving a technically successful solution, be it upstream mitigation, a barrier or a combination of both, and understanding and avoiding irresponsible expenditure is crucial to the future well-being of Calgary and her residents.

Thank-you for (hopefully) addressing my questions.

Sincerely,  
Geoffrey Wilcox PGeol (Life Member)



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\* I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

\* First name owen

\* Last name fahey

Email faheyowen@hotmail.com

Phone 403 286 4204

\* Subject Calgary Flood Resiliency Plan

April 13, 2020

Utilities and Corporate Services Committee  
Re:Calgary Flood Resiliency Plan

Dear Members

We reside at 6426 Bow Crescent NW. and we have lived at our current address just over 45 years. We have experienced water problems just once, with flooding due to ground water in 2013. It is our understanding that in Bowness, in excess of 80% of the damage from the high water in 2013 was due to rising groundwater.

The installation of a berm will not alleviate groundwater flooding, indeed, it could very well make matters worse. With a barrier in place along Bow Crescent it would reduce the impetus for upstream controls.

Our residence is one lot away from the west end of the east segment of the proposed berm. Our concerns regarding the construction of a berm are:

On our property alone, a berm would require the removal of at least ten (10) mature trees, each towering at least fifty (50) feet as well as four (4) gardens, thirty-five (35)



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feet of h edge and our paved bar-b-q area and pathway. It would reduce the depth our backyard from eighty (80) feet to less than forty (40) feet.

2. With a reduced urgency to control river water levels upstream, there is an increased potential for elevated water levels and subsequent groundwater flooding.
3. The imminent loss of wildlife habitat with the stripping of the berm of everything but grass.
4. Security issues at the river end of our property, despite city assurances of no public access to the proposed berm.
5. TransAlta management of the current upstream controls on spring river levels, considering their track record (including 2013).

The Flood Mitigation Measures Assessment report commissioned by the City of Calgary confirmed that to provide an equitable level of service on the Bow as on the Elbow, a new reservoir on the Bow River upstream of Calgary was recommended.

The reality of the high spring water level of the Bow River has to be dealt with before it hits Calgary not when it hits.

Costs generated by the Covid-19 outbreak, coupled with provincial austerity measures stress the importance of using taxpayer's money wisely.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input and hope it will be given serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Owen and Sharon Fahey



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\* First name **Thomas**

\* Last name **Kenny**

Email **tomkenny@shaw.ca**

Phone **403-288-7155**

\* Subject **Submission for Annual Flood Mitigation Update to SPC-UCS on April 15, 2020**

\* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

**Please include this document in the Agenda material for Utilities & Corporate Services Committee meeting on April 15.**



Thomas & Christina Kenny  
7008 Bow Crescent NW  
Calgary, AB. T3B 2B9

**“Without Prejudice”**

April 13, 2020

Members - Standing Policy Committee  
Utilities and Corporate Services  
City of Calgary

**Re: Submission for Annual Flood Mitigation Update to SPC-UCS on April 15, 2020**

We are opposed to the proposed berm along Bow Crescent, as presented by the City of Calgary at its meetings with residents on January 16 and September 20, 2018 respectively. We are Bow Crescent residents and members of the Bowness Responsible Flood Mitigation Society (BFRM). We have lived on the Crescent for the past fifty-two (52) years.

We shared our concerns at the City of Calgary’s September 20, 2018 meeting in a letter to members of the City’s barrier design team. We understand the City’s work on this berm proposal is proceeding and notwithstanding that this Committee is chaired by Mr. Sutherland, the person spearheading and driving this project, we feel we have no choice but to reiterate our concerns to this Committee as a whole. These concerns include design deficiencies, the significant legal costs to be assumed by the City associated with expropriation of/easement on private property, the significant cost of “making us whole” - fulfilling homeowner expectations in the event the City proceeds with this project and finally, the City’s lack of conscience in planning a project that will merely exacerbate flood problems for downstream communities.

Our comments on this project’s deficiencies in design are minimal. The BFRM group is better able to speak and respond to these matters with its engineering and hydrologic expertise. We note a new model concerning groundwater problems was shared recently with members of the BFRM, indicating the inadequacies associated with the proposed berm on Bow Crescent. We do not believe the City’s plan has contemplated how groundwater will dissipate after a spring run-off or as a result of heavy rain or snow. Groundwater issues have to be resolved in any plan to build a barrier along the river. Real groundwater control means going to bedrock during construction, and we know that will be very expensive.

With current and anticipated budget problems facing the City, we would ask the members of this Standing Policy Committee to evaluate the direct and collateral costs associated with expropriation and/or easements on privately-owned properties along the river. We believe the potential costs should be carefully assessed and added to the City’s anticipated project budget. We believe these costs will be substantial and will actually eclipse the costs of construction. We think it unlikely that the Province will underwrite and fund these costs.

While we only represent ourselves, we anticipate that most property owners who live along the river choose to stay here for one reason – THE RIVER. It is our prime focus and we accept certain risks associated with where we choose to live. This barrier will “sever” access to the

river from our bank, effectively blocking us from enjoying the river in many different ways. Given our attachment to the river, we (and we anticipate all of our riverbank neighbours) will be seeking and expecting to be "made whole" by the City if this barrier project is completed as proposed. The Supreme Court of Canada stated that the purpose of the statutory compensation scheme for injurious affection is:

to ensure that individuals do not have to bear a disproportionate burden of damage flowing from interference with the use and enjoyment of land caused by the construction of a public work.

We understand the City may use the concept of easement, rather than expropriation, relative to the construction of this proposed barrier. This may be seen by some as limiting the compensation available to landowners through the Alberta Land Compensation Board or via the civil courts. We note there are two forms of injurious affection associated with expropriation (1) where land is taken; and (2) where no land has been taken i.e., easement. In this light, we would recommend a review of two cases: In recent years, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled on case where no land was taken/expropriated, but an award was made for injurious affection in *Antrim Truck Centre Ltd. v. Ontario (Transportation)*, 2013 SCC 13. The Alberta Land Compensation Board ruled on restricted or severed access to water rights in *Riebel (Estate) v Alberta (Environment)*, 2007 CanLII 81377 (AB LCB). In both decisions, the principles of establishing and evaluating damages for affected property owners are clearly articulated.

If the City proceeds with this project, whether by easement or by expropriation, it should be able to estimate "ballpark costs" of ensuring that riverbank property owners are "made whole". The considerations will vary by property. As only one of the approximately one hundred (100) property owners, our list of considerations to be "made whole" includes the following:

1. *We can sit in our family room at present and see the river. We expect that after a barrier is constructed, arrangements will be made so that we will continue to be able to see the river while sitting in our family room.*

We are not sure how this will be accomplished, but if the City builds a berm/barrier that is approximately twenty (20) inches above the current bank, then we expect to either be able to see through this barrier or as an alternative, that our house will be raised. Perhaps the City should consider a removable barrier that could be set up when river levels are predicted to be high and removed when the possibility of flooding is minimal. Timing could be aligned with the Province's Ghost Lake reservoir arrangement.

2. *We expect that a barrier will not block or "sever" our access to the river and some access will be built into the barrier plan that will allow us to get to the water's edge, as is the case currently.*

The City's design should include a path or stairs to allow each property owner to be able to access the river.

- 3. We prefer a wall, rather than a berm, so this will negate the bike path/walking path scenario the City seems to be planning. If the City is not planning a bike path behind our property, then it should be prepared to construct a wall, rather than an earthen berm. Inglewood residents had a choice of wall or berm some years ago and we should receive similar treatment.*

We acknowledge that a concrete wall will not be as conducive to retaining the natural appearance of the riverbank, but that loss of the natural look may be the price we have to pay to ensure that the barrier will not become a public pathway

- 4. If the City insists on an earthen berm, we expect to be able to construct a non- scalable, but easily movable fence on our property line, so that the berm will not become a bike/walking path and concurrently, the City's required maintenance will be facilitated.*

If the City insists on an earthen berm, then we want the right to extend fencing over the berm to ensure the berm will not become an undesignated, but nevertheless, well used public pathway. We anticipate extending our property title to include the berm and are prepared to enter into an easement agreement with the City to allow for maintenance on the berm.

- 5. We expect all the trees/shrubs removed during construction shall be replaced.*
- 6. We expect the City shall have planned and be able to explain how water drainage will be facilitated on our property during heavy rain days or quick snow melts; and*
- 7. We expect the City will indemnify us and assume all responsibility to resolve any erosion that occurs on our property as a result of trapped groundwater/surface water that is not able to quickly drain to the river because of the barrier.*

There may be additional matters that arise during discussions if the City proceeds with this project and we reserve the right to expand this list of remedies as necessary.

Finally, it is unconscionable for the City of Calgary to plan for a project that will merely exacerbate flood problems for downstream communities. We are appalled by this City's disregard for downstream populations as it plans to save itself at the expense of communities such as Carseland, the Siksika and the City of Medicine Hat. In 2013, severe flooding forced around 1,000 Siksika people from their homes on the Alberta reserve. In Medicine Hat, the 2013 flood temporarily displaced 8,000 people and affected 2,845 properties, as well as coming very close to crippling that City's basic infrastructure and emergency services. For this reason, we have urged the Province to review and withdraw any funding support for the City of Calgary's flood mitigation plans as they relate to the proposed berm in Bowness. That the City's flawed planning to flow through its flood problems downstream as quickly as possible appears to be based only on its self-interest, and that is unacceptable. That the City of Calgary is prepared accept and base its flood plans on Bow River flow rates higher than 800m<sup>3</sup>/s is unfathomable.

Even those Calgarians with a casual interest in long range planning would probably identify drought, not flooding, as a greater potential problem for this City. Drought in southern

Alberta has always been a significant problem and experts indicate it may get worse. It could be argued that it is this issue, rather than flood mitigation, that should be driving the discussion about increasing reservoir capacity on the Bow River. Recently, a drought researcher says simulations show it's time to start treating these conditions as the "new normal." "It's not a crisis right now, but it's building to a different threshold that we need to start planning for," said Mary Ellen Tyler, a professor with the University of Calgary's faculty of environmental design who studies drought adaptation. "It isn't going to be 50 years between droughts. We're going to be moving into a more constant state of dry."

In 2019, the City of Calgary's administration advised Council that Calgary would reach its limit with respect to existing water licenses by 2036. In a related report to the City of Calgary, Dr. David Sauchyn, director of the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative, pointed to data suggesting average annual flow rates on the Bow River are in decline, despite a significant amount of variability from year to year. "The reason the river is declining slowly is the loss of the glacier ice and snow pack at high elevation," Sauchyn said. "Calgary actually has been able to deal with this gradually declining water supply (but) it's not going to last forever...."

In its 2014 report to the Southern Alberta Flood Recovery Task Force, AMEC Environment & Infrastructure noted:

Southern Alberta has insufficient water storage capacity to weather successfully a multi-year drought. Total storage capacity (on-stream and off-stream reservoirs) within the SSRB (South Saskatchewan River Basin) could sustain water demand for less than 2 hot, dry years, such as was experienced in 2000 and 2001. This time-frame may even be optimistic since no one can predict whether a single hot, dry summer will be followed by good winter precipitation, or if it signals the beginning of a drought. It is also not known how long the drought will last.

And why should we be concerned about increased reservoir capacity on the Bow River, other than the City of Calgary running out of water licensing by 2036? According to both the Western and Eastern Irrigation Districts, "appropriate stewardship of the finite resources of the Bow River continues to benefit all of us – both urban and rural residents. From food production to ecological protection to recreational opportunities, the Bow River is not only important for its beauty, but for its enduring qualities to sustain life".

In closing, we are all concerned about flood mitigation, but that will not be solved by a barrier along Bow Crescent. Building or expanding an existing upstream reservoir on the Bow River is the right solution and ultimately, the only solution. Such a reservoir will help in times of flood or drought. Please spend public money on the right solution.

Respectfully Submitted

Sent by e-mail only  
Christina Kenny

Sent by e-mail only  
Tom Kenny



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\* First name **David**

\* Last name **Chalack**

Email

Phone

\* Subject **Written submission for April 15/20 SPC-UCS Annual Flood Mitigation Update**

\* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters) **Please distribute to Committee members for agenda item 7.3 Flood Mitigation update April 15/20**

## **April 15, 2020 Address to SPC-UCS –David Chalack speakers notes**

Good morning my name is **David Chalack**. I reside on Bow Crescent and I have serious concerns about The City's approach to project management as it relates to the proposed berm on the Bow River project through Bowness. My observations are formed after being deeply involved in the BRFM (Bowness Responsible Flood Mitigation ) Society board activities and the many community and City meetings since 2018. Full disclosure: I do own property on the river side of Bow Crescent.

I have also taken the time to review and study other projects (Harvest Hills Golf Course Redevelopment and Highland Park Golf Course development) undertaken by The City and chronicled the ability or lack of ability of communities to interact with The City of Calgary and attempt usually unsuccessfully in stopping "train wrecks". Speaking of train wrecks my most recent and parallel involvement has been trying to bring change to the Green Line project—"a road or train to nowhere" some might say given our financial and population dynamics for the foreseeable future.

**Green Line:** many concerned and experienced business leaders/engineers and construction experts as well as citizens have rallied to inform the City their concerns with

1. Project budget methodology
2. Project risk assessment
3. Decision making; and,
4. Project management

**Highland Park 2000 homes on a former vacant golf course.** On March 20, 2017 Calgary City Council approved in principle the development of 2000 homes on a vacant golf course in Highland park that had been purchased in 2013. This approval was contrary to the strong wishes of the local community association and was based on incomplete engineering data. Now fast forward to March 8, 2019 and a new drainage report for the area found that the project poses a risk to public safety due to overland flooding unless \$130 million is spent on solutions.

Does this sound familiar—it should because similar practices are being implemented by The City on alleged flood protection for parts of Bowness. City Council approved the Flood Mitigation Measures Assessment (FMMA). The approval was based on limited engineering data and little if any public consultation with affected stakeholders. The City then commissioned a conceptual report by Associated Engineering. The proposed conceptual solution included a 9-meter-wide berm through almost 100 private residences.

The former **Harvest Hills** golf course in northeast Calgary is now home to a new housing development, despite years of lobbying by local residents. Those who spearheaded the fight say they never had a chance and that The City needs to change its consultation process to avoid discouraging citizens in the future—residents strongly advised to ask from the beginning is this a "done deal"—we at BRFM have asked this over and over without a clear answer or clear criteria on a decision to discontinue.

**Project Management** should focus on the project's deliverables in terms of cost, schedule and quality (safety). The City's Corporate Project Management framework (CPM) is a document that urges the completion of forms that identify a projects status but little in the way of what needs to be changed to meet commitments. In other words, the CPM focuses on reporting rather than accountability. Rather than focusing on results it is more of a record of what happened—that's how I perceive this situation. In other words, it is a reporting system NOT a project management system.

City staff can justify the berm, because Council has, in my opinion incorrectly, given the administration the go ahead. In simple terms a berm in Bowness makes sense until you start peeling layers off the onion.

I too would like to read an extract from FMMA: Flood Mitigation Measures Assessment report:

*"If a new Bow reservoir is not built, fortification of the Bow River by barriers is not desirable, as it would require higher barriers with large footprints along the length of the Bow River within Calgary, resulting in dramatic impacts on the community."*

Additionally, the June 2014 report by The City "Calgary's Flood Resilient Future, included the following provision:

*The Panel **DOES NOT** recommend the following: Building permanent or temporary flood barriers directly along the shore of the Elbow River residential areas because of challenges with private property Where critical stretches of riverside land are available and identified as appropriate for flood protection flood barriers should be considered.*

Why are Bowness landowners not treated the same as Elbow River landowners?

Finally I want to discuss the fact that modelling seems to be relied on heavily today whether it is climate change, deaths due to Corona Virus or berm construction—as a scientist I would like to refer to and stress that **all models have a degree of accuracy**. And the accuracy is dependent on the inputs. For example the FMMA Triple Bottom Line report in Exhibit 4.4 indicates the social characteristic of:

"River views from private and public property, natural looking river"

Is scored 40% higher with berms than with no berms.

This does not even pass the reasonable person test; that is, how can berms make the river look more natural and have better views?

The City advocates for Triple Bottom Line assessment. The City's TBL is a model with the weights, inputs, and framing of the questions influenced or created by the City, not by the residents.

Look at the larger picture—no berms before upstream mitigation is achieved—very simple. Upstream mitigation is likely cost effective when one considers the cost to Calgary for each flood event is \$3 billion not to speak of the opportunity to store water for drinking or agricultural production downstream for 70 years.

I believe that The City made decisions on the requirement of a berm before it had the necessary correct data. The berm seems to give the City a warm fuzzy feeling which it is not willing to walk back. The culture in City Hall is that we never make mistakes.

Submitted by

Dr. David Chalack D.V.M.



## Public Submission

City Clerk's Office

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\* I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

\* First name **Patti**

\* Last name **Peck**

Email **pguttek@hotmail.com**

Phone **403-606-9472**

\* Subject **Bowness Barrier Project - Utility & Corporate Services Update on Apr 15**

\* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

**I have attached my comments as a supporting file. Thank you.**



April 14, 2020

Utilities and Corporate Services Committee  
Re: Calgary Flood Resiliency Plan

Dear Members

I am submitting the following comments on the Bowness Barrier Project as a landowner along the riverside on Bow Crescent, a member of the Bowness Flood Mitigation Working Group, and a member of the Bowness Responsible Flood Mitigation Society ("BRFM").

Please note that my comments reflect my personal thoughts and not those of the Working Group or the BRFM Society.

I do not support the idea of constructing a berm in Bowness for a number of reasons, but I will limit my comments in this letter to a few of my concerns regarding the current stage of the project.

1. I believe there is too much uncertainty about the design, timing and funding of an upstream reservoir on the Bow River to continue with the Bowness Barrier Project. Earlier reports indicated that local barriers without upstream reservoirs are not advised and I worry about the over-topping of the proposed 1 in 20 year berm before the upstream reservoir is constructed. The modelling of the river and groundwater is not complete and I am not aware of the specifics of each model scenario but I hope that over-topping is being robustly considered and that the Project cease if modelling shows any risk to the community in the event of an over-topping.

**Please direct that robust modelling is being done to identify the risk of over-topping of the berm prior to the upstream reservoir being completed.**

**Why not wait until the upstream reservoir is well underway before considering the feasibility and risk of a local berm in Bowness? Delay the expenditure of more funds until there is more certainty and less guessing.**

2. After more than two years into the Barrier Project, I still have very little understanding of the 'benefit' side of the Project. As a taxpayer I have a very strong expectation that there is a clear and quantifiable basis behind any further expenditures on this project. A thorough and defensible 'benefit' both on the local Bowness level, as well as any benefit to the City as a whole, should have been presented to the public before the commitment to fund the current phase - but now it most certainly needs to be presented before proceeding to the next phase. Serious concerns from stakeholders as well as financial concerns worsened by COVID-19, demand that **further spending on evaluation and engineering be clearly and publically justified.**

**Please direct that the Barrier Team clearly present the 'benefit' side of the analysis in detail to the public prior to evaluating options and well before returning to Committee in Q4 of 2020.**

3. I understand that there is great uncertainty around public events in the coming months as a result of COVID-19. The Barrier Project Team has identified a number of public engagement initiatives in Bowness that I feel are critical and must be done in person as opposed to online. The nature of the Project in that it is environmentally sensitive, very expensive and involves a significant number of landowners and potential conflict, demands that the community engagement be done with special care.

**If the distancing requirements of COVID-19 prevents meaningful in person public engagement from taking place well in advance of barrier option evaluation and recommendations, please direct that the Project Team return to Committee with their recommendation only after face to face engagement has taken place (Potentially in Q1 or Q2 of 2021).**

Thank you for taking the time to consider these concerns. This is a very complex project with many technical and social issues.

Sincerely,  
Patti Gutek Peck  
6032 Bow Crescent NW



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\* I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda

\* First name **David**

\* Last name **Burton**

Email **burtonjd@telus.net**

Phone

\* Subject **Proposed Bowness Barrier**

\* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters) **Attached is a brief summary of our views on this project**

## **Bowness Barrier Project: Comments from Bow Crescent Residents David Burton/Janet Davies**

### **Our Position/Technical Concerns**

We are vehemently opposed to this project on technical, environmental and social grounds as it will protect neither those directly impacted by its construction (riverfront homeowners) nor their neighbors in the flood fringe area from flood damage the next time the river flows at or in excess of the 2005 flow rate of approximately 800 m<sup>3</sup>/s. As individuals with a comprehensive knowledge of rock/soil properties (geologist) and fluid flow (reservoir engineer), we know that this project shortcoming is a direct result of both berm design and local surface geology. The water will seek and attain an equal elevation landward of any surface barrier to that in the river. This mean initial groundwater/basement flooding, followed by surface pooling and potential overland flow of water through seepage and up via storm sewers, manholes, catchments (and, unfortunately, even people's basements under certain circumstances!).

### **Cost Concerns**

Costs for the conceptual design study are unbelievably unrealistic, reflecting a construction cost out by perhaps a factor of 10 and land costs which in no way consider the fact that the many riverside residents who understand its futility will force expropriation with the ensuing high costs. Despite these laughably low costs, the Benefit/Cost numbers were marginal to negative under all cases run. Add these issues to the fact that the City is currently losing millions of dollars per week with the pandemic, and that there is no ACRP funding available, it is unbelievable that this is even still on the table.

### **Environmental Concerns**

The construction of this vegetatively denuded 'highway' parallel to the river bank will destroy hundreds of mature trees and shrubs which have stabilized the bank in our neighborhood for decades, potentially initiating physical property losses at the bank with each highwater event. There is a remarkably high degree of species diversity in this stable local ecosystem despite its urban setting, and this will no doubt be changed forever with years of construction and habitat destruction.

### **Process Issues/Personal Impact**

It is infuriating that The City proceeded to conceptual design without a shred of technical data in Bowness, it appears simply because ARCP funding was available from the province. Now that they have been forced to go out and gather technical data, and that preliminary indications are painting a picture that this undertaking remains technically flawed, we wonder if they will have the courage to cancel it. It is also apparent that people who do not reside directly on the river are laboring under the false impression that this structure will 'save' them from future flood damage when it clearly will not, when you consider the percent of damage during the 2013

flood which was related to a rapidly rising groundwater table (one wonders where they acquired this view?). There is ample anecdotal evidence of direct relationship between river levels and groundwater levels in our neighborhood but no one in the City saw fit to actually go out and get it before starting to spend money on third-party consultants and conceptual design work.

On a personal note, part of our life has been put on hold while all this has been going on. We are both more or less retired and had intended to sell this home almost 2 years ago now. Of course, this is now extremely difficult and/or financially punitive, as no one wants to take on the risk that the city might come in and tear up one's backyard for no net benefit, just so they can say that to the community that they did "something" to mitigate future flooding. The fact that they cannot tangibly be proven wrong until the next flood will become "some future council's problem" I guess.

In summary, given the inescapable limitations imposed by the local surficial geology, the environmentally destructive and socially disruptive nature of this undertaking, and the hard data available in the neighborhood from the 2005 and 2013 floods, we feel that all of the City's efforts should be going into advocacy for sufficient upstream storage to protect every resident in our area from *all* types of flood damage in future, just as is being done for communities on the Elbow River.

Thank you

J David Burton P Geo

Janet M Davies P Eng (retired)



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I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda

\* First name **Tobin**

\* Last name **Walker**

Email **waltob88@gmail.com**

Phone **4034651494**

\* Subject **Bowness Flood Barrier Project**

\* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

**I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed construction of a berm along the Bow River in the community of Bowness.**

“Without Prejudice”

April 13, 2020  
The City of Calgary  
Utility & Corporate Services Committee  
Bowness Barrier Project

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed construction of a berm along the Bow River in the community of Bowness.

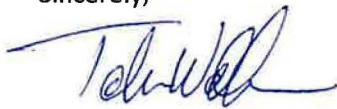
I have asked City representatives numerous times when attending open house meetings, what the stated objective is for constructing a berm in Bowness and I have not yet received an answer. Most have indicated that they were unaware of an actual objective being outlined in writing. I was told that it is for the “greater good”, however the representative was unable to definitively state what the “greater good” meant. Who is to benefit from the berm, how are they to benefit from the berm and what are the metrics that definitively outline this benefit?

It is stated numerous times that the proposed berm is designed so that the Bow River can flow at 1230m<sup>3</sup>/s. How does running the Bow River at such a dangerously high-level benefit anyone, except for maybe TransAlta? As residents of Bowness, we know that when the Bow River runs at anything greater than 800m<sup>3</sup>/s the community experiences significant groundwater flooding throughout. Based on this fact we know the proposed berm doesn't benefit the residents of Bowness. Also, how are those communities downstream of Bowness to benefit from running the Bow River at such dangerously high levels?

It will be **negligent** of the City of Calgary to approve such a project knowing the damage that will be caused when the Bow River is allowed to run at levels greater than 800m<sup>3</sup>/s.

So, I ask you again, what is the stated objective for constructing a berm along the Bow River in the community of Bowness, and who is to benefit from its construction?

Sincerely,



Tobin Walker  
6012 Bow Crescent NW  
Calgary, AB T3B 2B9