Ecological Inventory Framework – Letters of Support

PUD2016-0221 ATTACHMENT 1



URBAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE – CALGARY www.udicalgary.com

February 25, 2016

Mayor Nenshi and Members of the Standing Policy Committee for Planning & Urban Development c/o Mr. Steven Snell, City of Calgary Parks PO Box 2100 Station M Calgary, AB T2P 2M5

Dear Mayor Nenshi and Members of SPC for Planning & Urban Development:

Re: Environmental Open Space Program, Report to SPC for PUD March 9, 2016

UDI-Calgary would like to express appreciation and support for the collaborative process through which the City of Calgary Parks Administration and Staff have engaged UDI-Calgary members, as well as other consultants and stakeholders, in the process to develop the technical document, *Ecological Inventory Framework*, which provides instruction on how to inventory lands for determining environmental open space (EOS) at the Areas Structure Plan (ASP) stage of development.

We look forward in 2016 to continuing the collaborative process with the City to develop a mapping standard for EOS and further explore interpretation of data in the context of land use decisions. At this time, we are pleased to recognize the *Ecological Inventory Framework* as a significant accomplishment in the objective of bringing clarity to the subject of EOS.

Should you have any questions regarding the foregoing, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Beverly J. Jarvis

Director of Policy & Government Relations

c.c. Anne Charlton, City of Calgary Parks



PUD2016-0221
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February 23, 2016

File:

Environmental Open Space Work Program

Steven Snell
Business & Policy Planner
City of Calgary
Floor 7, Calgary Public Building: 205 - 8th Ave SE
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5

Re: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ON FORMULATION AND COMPLETION OF THE ECOLOGICAL INVENTORY FRAMEWORK

Dear Mr. Snell:

I would like to congratulate the City of Calgary in the collaborative approach they took in addressing one of the four main project components of the Environmental Open Space Work Program; the development of a technical document instructing how to inventory lands for determining environmental open space at the area structure plan stage of development.

Representing my firm, I was invited to take part in revising the Biophysical Impact Assessment Framework back in April 2014. Several options for level of engagement were presented, allowing a broad range of individuals to get involved. As a biologist working for a private consulting company, it was a welcome opportunity to contribute to a City of Calgary initiative using my technical background. The process lasted through the end of 2015 after several opportunities for comment, including working sessions.

I support the intent of this new framework and look forward to implementing it in the future. Thank you for the opportunity.

Yours truly,

Erin Rooney, P.Biol.

Senior Biologist/Regional Manager

BEST MANAGED COMPANIES Platinum member Page 2 of 5

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403-483-2476 ©

February 29, 2016

Steven Snell Parks, Planning and Development City of Calgary Calgary, AB

Re: City of Calgary's Ecological Inventory Framework (February 2016) - Endorsement

Dear Mr. Snell,

For over 22 years, I have worked on many science and land management projects throughout western Canada, primarily based out of Calgary. I have had the opportunity to review the City of Calgary's February 2, 2016 publication entitled Ecological Inventory Framework: Area Structure Plans Version 1, and as a professional biologist (ASPB) and certified engineering technologist (ASET), I am pleased to offer my endorsement. The EIF has clearly laid out the objectives and provided detailed guidance for a defensible scientific investigation, particularly when time, money and access are limitations associated with this scale of environmental assessment. I feel that this document has set standards for ecological inventory mapping and assessment methodology, which consider these limitations yet provide sufficient information upon which to inform decisions for planning at the ASP stage of development, or identify areas where more detailed information is required.

I have further endorsed the EIF by circulating it to a few organizations, which have in turn distributed it to their members, such as the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists (~1700 members) province-wide, and the Bow River Basin Council (BRBC) (large, local membership) in the Bow River watershed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank The City of Calgary for leading the way in environmental management for new community planning. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions via cell phone at 403-483-2476 or via e-mail at laurie@zanshinenvironmental.com.

Sincerely,

Zanshin Environmental Networks Inc.

Laurie Hamilton, M.Sc., C.E.T., PWS, P.Biol.

Terrestrial & Wetland Ecologist, Geomatics Specialist



March 1, 2016

Mr. Steven Snell
Parks, Planning & Development
The City of Calgary | Mail code: #54
Floor 7, Calgary Public Building: 205 - 8th Ave SE
P.O. Box 2100, Station M #54,
Calgary, AB Canada T2P 2M5

Re: Support for City of Calgary, Parks & Planning, Environmental Open Space work program, Ecological Inventory Framework

AltaLink's Environmental department has been involved in the review of the City of Calgary, Parks & Planning, Environmental Open Space work program, during the development of the Ecological Inventory Framework. AltaLink appreciates the opportunity to be involved in this process with City of Calgary Parks, Planning and Development and is satisfied with the final Ecological Inventory Framework (EIF).

Having a multiple stakeholder reviewed environmental process from the City has the advantage of considering different perspectives. The final EIF document will facilitate AltaLink's internal planning, and activities within the City.

Yours Truly,

AltaLink Management Itd.

Ted Zuurbier P. Biol Senior Environmental Advisor Environment, Health and Safety





March 1, 2016

Attention: Steven Snell

Parks, Planning & Development The City of Calgary Floor 7, Calgary Public Building: 205 - 8th Ave SE P.O. Box 2100, Station M #54, Calgary, AB Canada T2P 2M5

Dear Steven Snell,

Reference: City Parks. 2016. Ecological Inventory Framework: Area Structure Plans

Representatives from various stakeholder groups met with the City of Calgary Urban Conservation, Parks Planning Team to develop a set of standards for conducting an inventory of ecological features at the Area Structure Plan stage of planning, i.e. the Ecological Inventory Framework: Area Structure Plans. Ecological inventories for ASPs are to use provincially-recognized or other industry-accepted standards for methodology, as well as City-accepted methodology. The Ecological Inventory Framework: Area Structure Plans establishes a straightforward decision-making process to assist project proponents and environmental consultants to determine the appropriate level of assessment required.

As a practicing wildlife biologist and environmental consultant, I have been conducting environmental impact assessments and biophysical impact assessments at municipal, provincial and federal scales and welcomed the opportunity to participate and provide feedback in support of the development of the wildlife section of the *Framework*.

Regards,

Paul Fraser, B,Sc., P. Biol.

Senior Wildlife Biologist, Team Lead Stantec Consulting Ltd. 200-325 25th Street SE, Calgary, AB T2A 7H8

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