Presentation to Calgary City Council Important Differences: Preliminary Natural Site Assessment

VS

Biophysical Impact Assessment



Preliminary Natural Site Assessment (PNSA):

- Basic screening tool intended for a preliminary understanding of natural features.
- Limited scope without rigorous field studies or long-term modeling.
- Lacks in-depth evaluation of cumulative impacts, ecological interdependencies, and mitigation measures.

Biophysical Impact Assessment (BIA):

- Comprehensive study required for developments near sensitive ecosystems or waterbodies.
- Includes:
- ✓ detailed field studies
- ✓ ecological inventories
- ✓ hydrological analyses.
- Evaluates long-term impacts on biodiversity, water quality, and ecosystem health.

What We Heard: Environment

What we heard:

General concerns about the environmental impact on the surrounding area, including biodiverse zones around the Glenmore Reservoir.

How has this been addressed in our applications?

A Preliminary Natural Site Assessment was conducted for the Glenmore Landing proposal to evaluate environmental considerations for the site. The assessment concluded that the site does not fall within the Provincially identified key wildlife biodiversity zone and the study has been reviewed by the city.

Concerns about construction impacts and drinking water supply.

Stormwater will be directed into an upgraded stormwater system, and has been designed so no runoff enters the Glenmore Reservoir.

From RioCan's October '23 Open House

Key Shortcomings of RioCan's PNSA

 Insufficient Scope: No cumulative impact analysis of nearby developments like JCC and Taza. - Overlooked Environmental Regulations: City's BIA Framework 2010 is not fully implemented. Lack of Detailed
Hydrological Analysis: No
evaluation of runoff,
sedimentation, or
pollutant loads.

Incomplete Biodiversity
Study: No comprehensive
surveys of flora, fauna, or
critical habitats.

 No Focus on Public Safety or Climate
Resilience: Fails to assess risks from extreme climate events.

Importance of a BIA for Glenmore Landing Redevelopment



- Proximity to Sensitive Ecosystems: Glenmore Reservoir is critical for Calgary's drinking water and biodiversity.



- High Potential for Environmental Degradation: Risks include runoff, traffic, and urban heat island effects.



- Regulatory and Public Accountability: Ensures compliance with city policies and enhances public trust.



- Precedent Setting: A BIA would establish accountability for future developments in sensitive areas.



Conclusion: Why a BIA is Essential

- The **PNSA lacks the depth** needed to address risks to Calgary's drinking water and sensitive riparian zones at Reservoir parklands.
- With nearly 100 days of water restrictions this past summer, safeguarding the Glenmore Reservoir is vital
- A Biophysical Impact Assessment (BIA) must be mandated to rigorously evaluate ecological, hydrological, and cumulative impacts. This will ensure public safety, ecosystem health, and water quality for current and future generations.