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City of Calgary
P.O. Box 2100 Stn. M
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5
(via email: cityclerk@calgary.ca)

March 10, 2025

Re: EC2025-0225

To the Mayor and City Council of Calgary,

I am writing today to express my support for the recent update to the Water Utility, Wastewater, and Stormwater Bylaw. After witnessing the devastating impact on small businesses in the landscape industry in 2024, I am grateful that we were consulted during the process of these important updates for the 2025 season.

Allowing the watering of all types of plant materials, including trees, shrubs, sod, seed, and food plants, is a significant improvement that will help protect and enhance green spaces across Calgary. Furthermore, enabling construction projects to continue, as well as the installation and testing of irrigation systems, will help ensure that we do not experience a repeat of the challenges faced in 2024.

We look forward to collaborating with the City of Calgary to establish ongoing best practices for water efficiency in developing green infrastructure. This includes public engagement on making water-wise choices and working with City staff to craft bylaw and policy updates that reflect the value of the landscape while ensuring water security for the City.

On behalf of the landscape and nursery industry in Alberta, I thank the Council and staff for their ongoing communication and willingness to work together toward solutions that will protect Calgary's water and green spaces.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Beatson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joel Beatson, CLHM, CAE
Executive Director



March 7, 2025

Dear Council,

Subject: Support of Schedule E Bylaw Updates and Advocating for Long-Term Solutions

Over the past two years, the Irrigation and Green Industries have faced significant challenges due to the application of outdated and overly restrictive Outdoor Water Use Restrictions bylaws. The August 2023 Stage-1 drought event halted industry operations due to restrictive wording, while the 2024 feeder main break resulted in a catastrophic impact on our sector. These events have made it clear that Calgary's 20-year-old water bylaws are no longer viable for the realities of 2025 technology, population growth, and the need for a future-proofed water management strategy.

The current framework unfairly places the burden of water reduction on a single industry—one that has led the way in water efficiency advancements over the past two decades. Our industry has continuously invested in innovative solutions to maximize the efficient use of water while ensuring Calgary remains a vibrant, green city where people and businesses thrive.

The City of Calgary Administration has put forward necessary interim modifications to the Schedule-E bylaw, providing greater clarity and immediate improvements that benefit both citizens and industry. These updates are critically important ahead of a broader rewrite of the Water Efficiency Plan (WEP) and related bylaws expected in 2026. The Canadian Prairie Chapter of the Irrigation Association (CPCIA) fully supports these immediate changes as they are vital for the sustainability of our industry and the communities we serve.

We are also grateful for the opportunity to work alongside the City as subject matter experts in shaping future updates to the WEP, Water Utility bylaw, and the Water Managed Sites program. A modernized and well-balanced approach to water management is essential for ensuring Calgary remains an attractive place to live and do business. While we are cautiously optimistic about future changes, we emphasize the urgent need for the City to continue fixing and evolving its water infrastructure in an expedient manner including the twinning of the feeder main, leak reduction, and additional water treatment facility expansions. Meanwhile, the CPCIA is committed to advocate on behalf of the irrigation industry members and to the promotion of water conservation, efficient practices, and technological advancements.

We look forward to ongoing collaboration and a shared commitment to policies that support both environmental responsibility and economic vitality.

Sincerely,

The Canadian Prairie Chapter of the Irrigation Association Board