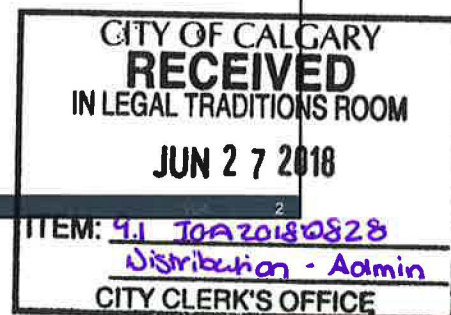


**Calgary**  **Agenda**

- I. Context
- II. Calgary's Integrated Watershed Management Approach
- III. Calgary's Drinking Water Licences
  - Licence Background
  - The City's Water Licencing Strategy
  - Risks to Water Licences
- IV. Next Steps
- V. Recommendations

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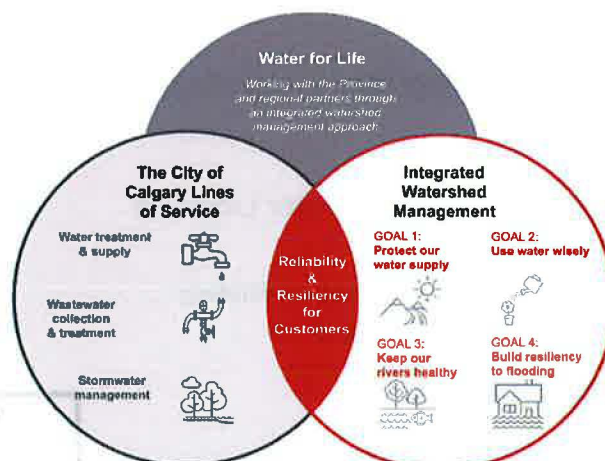


## Context

- Calgary Metropolitan Region Board (CMRB) formed and interim growth plan underway
- There is no common understanding of the capacity available in Calgary's water licence allocation.
- There is uncertainty in the short and long term water availability in the Bow River watershed.
- Calgary consistently receives requests for regional servicing



## Integrated Watershed Management Approach




## Calgary's Drinking Water Licences

- Water in Alberta is a public resource of the Crown—it belongs collectively to all Albertans
- The *Water Act* is the provincial legislation that regulates water management in Alberta
- A **water licence** is the Crown authorization to divert a portion of water for a specific **purpose** – municipal

## Calgary's Drinking Water Licences

- There is a total annual volume or **allocation** assigned to each licence
- Licences include daily **diversion limits** to how much, when and how water can be withdrawn
- A **point of diversion** indicates where water is withdrawn from a specific body of water
- The **rule of priority** controls in times of shortage – drought


Calgary



## Calgary's Water Licences


### Glenmore Water Treatment Plant

- Elbow River (1929, 1971)




### Bearspaw Water Treatment Plant

- Bow River-Raw I (1895, 1971)
- Bow River-Raw II (1981, 2005)

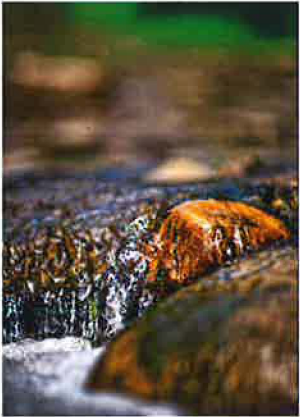


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## Water Licence Goals



1. Meet immediate and short term water supply needs of City of Calgary and existing regional customers
2. Secure a long term and resilient water supply for The City
3. Support Regional Growth

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## Calgary's Water Licences Risks

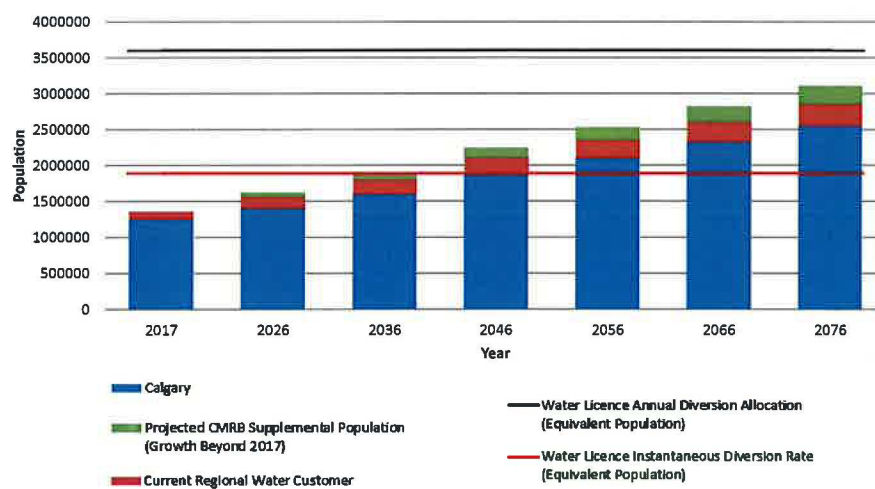
1. City of Calgary water licence capacity
2. Accessing the Bow River water licences
3. Licence priority during drought

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## Risk #1 Calgary's Water Licence Capacity



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## Risk #2 Accessing the Bow River Water Licences

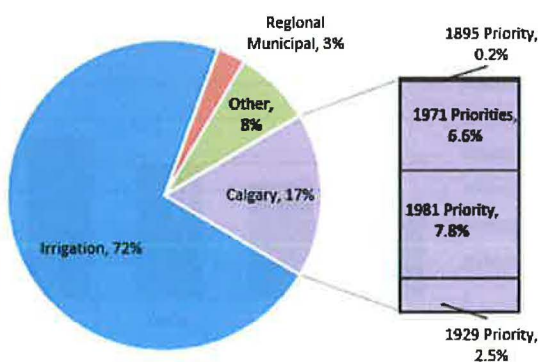
### TransAlta

- The Bearspaw Reservoir is the preferred diversion point for the Bearspaw Water Treatment Plant
  - Lower costs
  - TransAlta manages the Bearspaw Reservoir
- Increasing diversion rates from the Bearspaw Reservoir requires TransAlta consent



## Risk #3: Bow River Basin Water Licence Priorities

Bow River Basin Licensee	Priority
City of Calgary	1895
Irrigation Districts	
TransAlta	
City of Calgary	1929
TransAlta	
Irrigation Districts	
City of Calgary	1971
City of Calgary	1981
Other	



Lower priority licences are a risk to Calgary during drought



## Water Licence vs. Water Supply

- Closure of South Saskatchewan River Basin to new water licences has led to re-distributing water allocations through the water licence transfer system
- Licence allocations do not equate to water supply solutions.
- We need to collectively determine:
  - **What** the water supply needs are for city and region
  - **How** water security solutions will be developed regionally
  - **When** they will be developed



## Licence Concerns

- Perception that Calgary has a surplus of unused water licence capacity
- Calgary receives numerous requests for water servicing
- Lack of long-term regional water supply strategy puts licences at risk



## Next Steps

1. Inform and create shared understanding of Calgary's licence capacity amongst stakeholders
2. Require Council approval of contracted 4 year capacities for regional customers
3. Bi-lateral Task force with the Province to address broader watershed management issues



## Administration Recommendations

That the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee recommend that Council:

1. Receive this report for information.
2. Provide support through representation on CMRB for the development of a regional water supply plan that aligns with the servicing and growth plans.
3. Direct Administration to report back to Intergovernmental Affairs Committee on the Drought Risk and Vulnerability Assessment.
4. Direct that the report attachments, presentation and verbal discussions remain confidential subject to Sections 23 and 24 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.



