

March 9, 2017

Mr. Rob Spackman,
Director Water Resources (#412)
P.O. Box 2100, Station M,
800 Macleod Trail SE
Calgary, AB
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Dear Mr. Spackman,

Recently staff from your Administration asked the Expert Management Panel on Flood Resilience to reconvene in order to review and provide input on work produced by City staff and independent consultants on the optimum next steps to improve The City's flood resilience.

We were impressed to hear how much progress has been made with respect to the 27 recommendations in our report (2014 June) to Council. We also understand there is significant work underway and with City Council's leadership on these challenges we are assured the citizens of Calgary will see further improvements in flood safety and resilience. It appears, however, there is an additional new factor that requires careful consideration by The City.

Information and data developed by Administration and external consultants subsequent to our Expert Management Panel report now clearly shows that it will not be possible to protect residences, businesses and municipal infrastructure along the Bow River against a 2013 type of event without new upstream storage capacity. Ongoing management of the Ghost reservoir for flood control and improved diking within the City will improve the situation but simply will not be enough to prevent potential future damage from large floods. While a new structure or reservoir may be a controversial solution and one likely to take substantial time, effort and money to achieve, the calculations show that the level of protection provided would justify the necessary investment. Without a plan to further reduce peak flows on the Bow, we believe Calgary continues to be exposed to an unacceptable level of risk. We therefore recommend this item be added to the suite of actions to reduce flood risk and that the Province be formally approached by the City of Calgary to take action on the issue.

It goes without saying the Province will be hard pressed to find the funding for such a project in these economic times, however, we believe the case should be made and the project should at least be defined and scoped as soon as possible so it can be put on the list of capital priorities of the Province (and certainly the Federal Government) to be considered as the economy stabilizes and funds can be allocated.

Good progress has been made addressing vulnerabilities on the Elbow River in terms of physical improvements within the city coupled with the Province's commitment to develop the Springbank reservoir. This combination of investments will provide a high degree of protection at an appropriate cost. We would urge Council to keep the Springbank reservoir high on the

Province's agenda to ensure it is completed in a timely manner and its protective impact is in fact realized.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our input on this important program and wish you and Council continued success in making Calgary safer and better able to withstand these damaging natural events.

Best regards on behalf of the Panel,


Wolf Keller
Chair
Expert Management Panel of River Flood Mitigation