

## Letter from Mayor Nenshi to Reeve Boehlke



NAHEED K. NENSHI, MAYOR

April 5, 2017

Reeve Greg Boehlke  
Rockyview County Municipal Building  
911 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue N.E.  
Calgary, AB T2E 6X6

Dear Reeve Boehlke:

**Re: Rocky View County's Glenbow Ranch Area Structure Plan**

I am writing on behalf of Calgary City Council to express The City of Calgary's ("The City") concern with the detrimental impact of the proposed Glenbow Ranch Area Structure Plan ("GRASP"). In addition to the detriment to The City, we believe the GRASP will have a real and tangible negative effect on the citizens of Calgary. We therefore request that the plan not proceed to public hearing until the detrimental impacts of this proposed Area Structure Plan ("ASP") have been addressed.

Like all municipalities in our region, The City is working hard to control costs and manage the need to mitigate tax increases within a challenging economic environment. We cannot support a development that would shift many of the costs of development and operation of this ASP area onto our residents. Although not an exhaustive list, I would highlight the areas of transit, transportation, recreation and water protection as being particularly concerning.

**Transportation**

The GRASP does not provide any significant employment opportunities for residents. To earn a living, Glenbow Ranch residents would be commuting to either The City or The Town of Cochrane. This will add new users onto city roads making the commute longer for Calgary residents and spurring upgrading of roads to alleviate congestion.

**Transit**

The transportation concerns could be somewhat alleviated through implementation of transit. The City continues to invest heavily in transit as an economical and environmentally-friendly method of travel for our citizens. While fares are collected from all transit users, this revenue only accounts for approximately fifty percent of total costs. The GRASP does not provide any regional transit solutions and the form of development proposed will be particularly difficult to service with regional transit. As a result, Rocky View County residents will use existing Calgary Transit services making that service increasingly crowded, and Calgarians would be asked to pay taxes to subsidize additional users from Rocky View County.

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### Recreation

With respect to recreation, the GRASP does not provide for the establishment of any new recreational facilities for residents. Residents will instead look to Calgary and Cochrane for those services. In fact, The City is nearing completion of the Rocky Ridge Recreation Facility which was constructed at a cost of \$191 million. This is again an example of the use of a facility by Rocky View County residents that will be subsidized by citizens of Calgary.

### Water Protection

Finally, The City is not satisfied that the Bearspaw Reservoir will not be impacted by the development proposed by the GRASP. The Bearspaw Reservoir is a primary source of essential drinking water for the citizens of Calgary. I am sure you would agree that in an age of water scarcity, protection for our citizens' water supply is essential.

The City's specific concerns with the GRASP are contained within the letter sent to you on February 28, 2017, which is attached for your reference. The concerns outlined in the letter demonstrate that the development of the GRASP will be detrimental to The City and our citizens.

The City formally requests that the GRASP not proceed to a public hearing at this time. Should the plan not proceed to public hearing, we would be willing to work with Rocky View County and The Town of Cochrane towards a plan that the needs of all our citizens.

Please also consider this letter as The City's formal submission in opposition to the Glenbow Ranch Area Structure Plan in the event it proceeds to a public hearing.

Sincerely,



Naheed K. Nenshi  
MAYOR

cc: Ivan Brooker, Mayor, Town of Cochrane  
Calgary City Council  
Jeff Fielding, City Manager, The City of Calgary