

# Elbow River Sustainability Alliance (ERSA)

March 18, 2020

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC/CEAA)

National Resources Conservation Board (NRCB)

Delivered by email

Attention: Laura Friend (NRCB)

Jennifer Howe (IAAC / CEAA)

On behalf of the Elbow River Sustainability Alliance (ERSA) and included signatories, please accept this submission to both IAAC (CEAA) and NRCB regarding the Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir Project (SR1). ERSA represents the views of community members in Bragg Creek, West Bragg Creek, Redwood Meadows (Tsuut'ina Nation lands), Jumping Pound and Springbank.

Water management, including flood protection, is an important priority for all communities along the Elbow River. Further, water, our most vital resource, must be protected and preserved for future generations. Large scale water infrastructure projects, such as SR1, have a responsibility to contribute to the health and longevity of our water systems. Well-planned water infrastructure should be considered in the context of not only flood protection, but also drought, fire suppression, recreation and drinking water quality, quantity and security.

It is clear from the Proponent's submissions that SR1 has a range of unpalatable outcomes for fish, wildlife, water systems and the environment. SR1 also leaves lasting economic, social and aesthetic damage that erodes value and opportunity in surrounding communities. SR1 is now far more expensive than the McLean Creek (MC1) alternative, a project that creates economic, recreational and social value while managing flood, drought and wildfire risk for a wider range of Albertans. Given the public and political history of the SR1 project, one could draw the conclusion that SR1 was a political, rather than science-based, decision!


Our submission to regulators is based on extensive dialogue, research and collaboration. We are united by the belief that SR1 is the worst outcome for Albertans. There is a tremendous imbalance of power in the SR1 process. The Alberta Government has used considerable resources since 2014 – political and economic - to advance SR1. We strongly believe that it is time for our voices, our research, and our experiences regarding the floods of 2005 and 2013 to be acknowledged.

In summary: **We all want flood protection.** However, SR1 is not the best use of our valuable water, land and economic resources and is therefore not in the best interests of the Albertans.

We respectfully request that IAAC (CEAA) and NRCB decline the Proponent's application for the SR1 project.

Signed by:

Elbow River Sustainability Alliance (ERSA)

<b>Bragg Creek Community Association</b>  Alannah Turner	<b>Bragg Creek Chamber of Commerce</b>   Kathleen Laplante
<b>Redwood Meadows Town Council</b>  Paul Sawler	<b>Springbank Community Association</b>  Karin Hunter

Cc: Via Email: Roy Whitney, Chief of Tsuut'ina Nation; Jason Kenney, Premier of Alberta; Ric McIver, Minister of Transportation; John Barlow, MP Foothills, Miranda Rosin, MLA Banff-Kananaskis; Peter Guthrie, MLA Airdrie Cochrane; Kim McKylor, RVC Councillor Division 2, RVC; Mark Kamachi, RVC Councillor Division 3, Greg Boehlke, RVC Reeve; Richard Secord, Ackroyd Law; Grant Kelba, Kamp Kiwanis