

Geoff and Jacky Granville

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Calgary AB, ██████████

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Laura Friend; Manager, Board Reviews
Natural Resources Conservation Board
250 – 5 Street SW Calgary AB T2P 0R4
By email to: laura.friend@nrcb.ca

Re: Springbank Offstream Reservoir (SR1); Letter To The Natural Resources Conservation Board:

We are writing this letter in support of the SR1 proposal. We further recognize and support the intervention of CRCAG and Flood Free Calgary. We urge the NRCB to approve SR1 without delay.

We are now senior citizens who for the past four years have lived in a new high-rise close to Calgary's downtown, but from 2000-2016 lived in the Calgary community of Erlton (at 2303, Erlton Place), close to the Talisman [now, Repsol] Center and backing onto the Elbow river. We truly enjoyed the life there: in addition to walking to our places of work in the downtown, we were able to appreciate the delights of Calgary's river valleys while living in a fully-developed but quiet neighbourhood, just a stroll from the heart of a city with so many great attractions. The Elbow river flood of 2005 damaged our basement, which for all practical purposes meant we lost an entire summer in order to complete the restorations, but we were ok with this because the overall quality of our lives remained high. However, the 2013 flood was a vastly different matter. This time our basement was destroyed – in fact, all the basements or garages in the Erlton community north of 25th Ave SW were flooded, which directly impacted over 500 (five hundred) residents. Despite the stresses of another summer of repairs (and we truly remember the generosity and spirit of so many volunteers who came to assist in our neighborhood), we continued to live there for a further 4 years until the annual episode of extreme worry from mid-May to mid-July (associated with the realization that protection from the next flood would take a long time to achieve) became so unbearable that we decided we had to move to higher ground, namely our current address. We are still close to our beloved downtown, Beltline and river valleys, but somewhat insulated from the next flood. I say "somewhat" because the 2013 flood confirmed that a major flood in Calgary has a serious and prolonged negative impact on the entire city, which remains addressed. Unless SR1 is approved and built in the near future, Calgary's exposure to major flood risk remains intolerably - and so unnecessarily! - high.

I believe we were fortunate that our losses were not severe, although it should be clear that the mental stress of experiencing a major flood, plus the annual reminder every spring (no vacation, nor even a weekend away from mid-May to mid-July!!) and culminating in our decision to move, is not to be taken lightly. Multiply our family's experience by considering 5 flood-associated deaths in southern Alberta as a direct result of the flood, plus 100,000 temporarily displaced residents, plus hundreds of homes destroyed or with major damage (with many residents being unable to afford repairs), plus thousands of homes with significant damage, plus the economic damage to the city and province....we simply cannot understand why we are still in the same "place" as we were 7+ years ago¹. Why hasn't something been done to prevent another tragic occurrence? Seven and a half years have passed since the flood. Three successive provincial governments plus numerous experts have reviewed the various alternatives to protect Calgary and nearby areas against a reoccurrence of the 2013 flood. The SR1 project has been repeatedly confirmed to be the best solution. Overall, it simply is in the public interest to support this proposal.

Yours truly, Geoff and Jacky Granville

cc: ██████████

■ Not quite true: we really appreciate the City's extensive and ongoing efforts to protect Calgary, including berming and reprofiling areas close to the Bow river, plus the recently-completed Glenmore Dam project. The latter should prevent another 2005-type flood on the Elbow...although it would have had little effect on a 2013-type event.