



Calgary River Valleys champions and engages the public in the protection, appreciation and stewardship of Calgary's rivers, creeks, wetlands and watershed resources.

We are the voice of our rivers.

August 10, 2016

Regulatory Approval Unit
Environment and Parks
Main Floor Great West Life Building
9920 – 108 Street
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2M4

Attention: Judy Tumm, Water Application Coordinator

Re: Application No.001-00381655 - Reconstruction of Harvie Passage (Bow River, Calgary)

This letter is further to your request for additional information in support of the submission by Calgary River Valleys in response to the notice of application for approval of the above-noted project. We can confirm that Calgary River Forum Society, also known as Calgary River Valleys (CRV), is a legally constituted not-for-profit Society in the province of Alberta, Registration No. 5015237844.

We the undersigned represent Calgary River Valleys as President of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Watershed Policy and Planning Standing Committee, respectively. The Society's Bylaws provide that, "Where the work of the Society is carried out by its Committees, the Chair(s) of said Committee will be authorized to represent the Board regarding said Committees' work, on behalf of the Society." The CRV's working Board and its committees strive to maintain an informed advisory capacity in support of the stewardship of Calgary's rivers, valleys, creeks and wetlands.

Our membership includes individuals, representatives from not-for-profit and environmental and stewardship organizations, citizen advisory councils, and commercial and public education services who have an interest in the protection and responsible management of Calgary's watershed resources. Our members relate to our organization as a way to represent a broader public interest promoting better stewardship of our riverine resources and contributions.

Almost all of the CRV membership live in Calgary and consider the Bow and its tributaries to be their river. Our members use Harvie Passage and the immediate vicinity for paddling, bird watching, hiking, fishing and general respite. In the limited time available to respond to your request, we have canvassed our members who are part of our Board and working committees who were available and we are able to provide a representative sample for your assessment of the level of impact on the personal lives of our members and others that we represent. Two of our members access this immediate area on a *daily* basis as this site is in the immediate vicinity of their home. They purchased their home because of the river, wildlife corridor, as well as the passive use Pearce Estate Park and nearby Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. Two members canvassed would like to make use of this site in their commercial and professional capacity; one as operator of educational tours on the river (6000 students per year) which have been limited and compromised by the less than safe passage, and the other providing terrestrial and avian nature tours (2016 registration of over 260 participants) which focus on this reach of the river because of its unique and iconic community of fish dependent bird species. One of our Board members is an occasional paddler on the river, several times per



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year and is hoping for safe passage for himself and grandchildren through this reach of the Bow River. One of our Board members is a regular pathway user and visits this site periodically because of the natural ambiance and opportunity to watch birdlife. One Board member, also a member of Sarcee Fish and Game Association, fishes in the vicinity. Another Board member visits the area throughout the year as an occasional paddler and is looking forward to safer and more convenient passage. He also visits the site with interest in the avian community including overwintering species, as well as the habitat station/Sam Livingston hatchery. This member has been a stakeholder residing near Nose Creek, contributing to the revitalization of that creek and has an interest in fish passage upstream through Harvie Passage to support upstream spawning areas. Also this member uses this site as a place to introduce visitors to the Bow River in Calgary.

These members feel that the Harvie Passage design as proposed will not offer safe passage for casual recreation users or for fish as expressed as primary objectives of the project. The magnitude of the proposed reconstruction project offers opportunities to improve these primary objectives far beyond what appears to be possible from the proposed design. The apparent minimal, if any, improvement in fish passage would be a considerable and permanent regional loss. The proposed design also appears to be inviting uses which will contribute to danger factors for boat passage and considerable disruption of shoreline and other habitat. We note that the Harvie Passage concept as arrived at in the 2007-2010 planning period, was *not* to be a destination location and this was agreed to at a final stakeholder meeting. Instead, as designed, the project will serve as a destination for skilled watersport enthusiasts and their viewing audience and will attract crowds and subsequent requests for amenities and services resulting in a degradation of the existing natural environment and ecological functions which have served as a source of enjoyment and contribution to quality of life not only for our members but many residents of the area and across the city of Calgary.

We are submitting this to conform to your request. Please advise if there is need for further clarification.

Yours truly,



Michael Kenny
President, Calgary River Valleys

Bill Morrison
Chair, Watershed Policy and Planning Committee
Calgary River Valleys

c.c. Pauline Scoffield, Alberta Environment and Parks
Carl Wirzba, Alberta Transportation
Amber Lapshinoff, Klohn Crippen Berger
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CRV Circulation



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