



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

The Honourable Rebecca Schulz, MLA

Minister of Environment & Protected Areas
Office of the Minister of Environment & Protected Areas
204 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T2K 2B6

Jun 20, 2024

Dear Minister Schulz,

Cochrane Council recently passed a motion to express strong opposition to the currently considered Glenbow Dam East Option. We further request that should the Province proceed further with consideration of this option that the Government of Alberta commit to funding the costs for a comprehensive, technical impact study to evaluate the risks to Cochrane. The current proposal, rather than safeguarding our community's infrastructure, poses significant risks that could jeopardize years of investment and development in Cochrane.

Risk to Infrastructure

The recent construction of the James Walker Trail and the Jack Tennant Memorial Bridge, costing \$54 million, stands as a testament to our commitment to enhancing local infrastructure. However, the potential impacts on these critical assets due to changes in modeled water levels and associated ice damming underscore the precarious nature of the proposed Glenbow Dam East Option.

Moreover, the proposal's implications extend far beyond our transportation infrastructure. It also threatens vital water and wastewater systems such as the Riviera Storm Pond, Griffin Road Storm Pond, and the Sanitary Syphon from Gleneagles to the Wastewater Transfer Station. These facilities are essential for ensuring public health and environmental sustainability in our community.

Risk to Recreation Amenities, Community and Natural Amenities

Equally concerning is the threat posed to our recreational amenities and future development projects. Facilities like the SLS Centre, the upcoming Jumpstart Inclusive Multi-Use Court, and extensive pathways crucial for community connectivity could all be compromised. Additionally, planned storm ponds and pathways in Greystone and Southbow, along with natural amenities like the Glenbow Provincial Park, Haskayne Park, Griffin Historic Barn, Bow Rivers Edge Campground, and The Great Trail Project, all face potential harm.



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It is evident from our review that the current proposal fails to comprehensively address the impacts on our community, we request that no final decision is made on the Glenbow Dam East Option, until completion of the technical impact study, inclusive of any and all associated costs, along with a formal commitment from the Province of Alberta that they assume responsibility and costs for mitigating the risk to critical infrastructure should the Glenbow East option be pursued. It is our position that the Province would be best served to explore and advance alternate options.

The Glenbow Dam East Option not only fails to protect our community's interests but also puts at risk the investments and aspirations we have nurtured for Cochrane's future. We urge you to reconsider this proposal and explore alternative solutions that prioritize the safety, sustainability, and long-term prosperity of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Genung", written over a white background.

Mayor Jeff Genung
Town of Cochrane

ENCL: Urban Systems Report

Cc: Honourable Peter Guthrie, Minister of Infrastructure
Cochrane Council
Mike Derricott, Cochrane CAO