

## TOWN OF COCHRANE

101 RancheHouse Rd.  
Cochrane, AB T4C 2K8  
P: 403-851-2500 F: 403-932-6032  
[www.cochrane.ca](http://www.cochrane.ca)



March 24, 2021

Honourable Jason Nixon, MLA  
Minister of Environment and Parks, House Leader  
Office of the Minister  
Environment and Parks  
323 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B7

### **Re: Summit Pit Master Site Development Plan**

The Town of Cochrane would like to provide feedback on the proposed gravel pit adjacent to Big Hill Springs Provincial Park that was formally considered by Rocky View County on March 2, 2021 and subsequently approved by Rocky View County Council.

While the Town of Cochrane was not formally engaged on this proposal as it is outside of our circulation area, we recognize the potential impacts that could be realized through approval of this proposal. The Big Hill Creek flows through the heart of our community and is a beloved riparian area for our residents. We believe this space should be protected for years to come, for both Town and County residents.

Rocky View County's Open Space Master Plan, approved in 2011, specifically identifies Big Hill Springs Creek as an environmentally significant area that should be treated as a conservation space. And furthermore, identifies pathway linkage opportunities from Big Hill Springs Creek to Bow Valley Provincial Parkway and West Nose Creek Valley.

Rocky View County's draft Municipal Development Plan (MDP) identifies the following as a guiding principle: "Rocky View County will develop and operate in a manner that protects the ecological integrity of the County and preserves the natural landscapes for future generations to enjoy." These principles align with the Cochrane Community Vision, and specifically maintaining and protecting our open spaces and natural areas, as well as our rural character areas which function as key gateways into our community.

Recognizing our joint interest in protecting valued park and conservation space, we believe that Rocky View County's approval of the Summit Pit does not reflect the principles identified in both the Rocky View County Open Space Master Plan or the Rocky View County draft MDP. We firmly believe that municipalities must remain committed to the principles identified in approved municipal planning documents when considering any and all developments.

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Furthermore, we are concerned that the concerns identified by Alberta Environment and Parks in your letter dated February 17, 2021 specifically identify the potential effects of the proposal on the Big Hill Springs Provincial Park, including potential groundwater impacts. We fully support the request of Alberta Environment and Parks that that Rocky View County consider additional assessments for the Mountain Ash site, and further consider the aggregate development setbacks proposed.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with you.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Genung", written in a cursive style.

Mayor Jeff Genung

cc      Cochrane Town Council  
         Mike Derricott, CAO Town of Cochrane  
         Peter Guthrie, MLA Airdrie-Cochrane  
         Reeve Henn, Rocky View County