

January 4, 2018

Chair and Members
Civic Works Committee
City Hall
London, Ontario

Dear Chair and Members:

Re: One River Master Plan Environmental Assessment, Phase 2, Stage 1: Recommended Option for Springbank Dam.

I commend the CH2M consultants for their thorough consultations with stakeholders, the citizens of London, First Nations and Métis communities, and relevant government agencies regarding the proposed options for Springbank Dam. I strongly support the recommendation by Kelly Scheer, Managing Director, Environmental and Engineering Services and City Engineer, that Option 2 – Free-flowing River – be adopted, and that Springbank Dam be decommissioned.

Public feedback resulted in a clear majority of 70% in support of Option 2, versus 24% in favour of restoring Springbank Dam, and the percentage of support for Option 2 was even higher (75%) among the First Nations respondents. This demonstrates a strong desire to see the natural attributes of the Thames River below the Fanshawe Dam maintained as they are now or enhanced, with no impediments caused by a dam. We are very fortunate to live in the Carolinian Life Zone, which is characterized by many species found nowhere else in Ontario or Canada, and which has many species at risk that need as much protection as possible in the very fragmented, highly developed landscape of Southwestern Ontario. As indicated in the Executive Summary in Appendix 'A' of the *One River Master Plan Assessment Phase 2, Stage 1 Report*, more than 30 species at risk listed as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern under the federal *Species at Risk Act* or the Ontario *Endangered Species Act* are found in the vicinity of Springbank Dam or upstream of the Dam. Biodiversity is essential for a healthy environment, and to help mitigate any adverse effects of climate change. Free-flowing rivers are very important in promoting and maintaining biodiversity. Any loss of species threatens the ecological integrity and ecosystem health of the natural environment, whether aquatic or terrestrial.

I urge you to support the preferred Option 2, which is the best option for our special Canadian Heritage River.

Sincerely,
Anita Caveney

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Cc: Cathy Saunders, City Clerk