ALBERTA

ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTED AREAS

Office of the Minister

November 25, 2025

Ms. Debborah Donnelly, Executive Director
c/o Ms. Ruiping Luo, Conservation Speacialist
Alberta Wilderness Association
455 - 12 Street NW
Calgary AB T2N 1Y9
rluo@abwild.ca

Dear Ms. Donnelly:

Thank you for copying me on your letter to the Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta, about concerns with the Bow River Irrigation District's land development. The Premier has asked that I respond on behalf of the Government of Alberta.

The lands in question are privately owned and were transferred to the Municipal District (MD) of Taber. Under Part 17 - Planning and Development of the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA), municipal governments are responsible for local land-use planning and land development within their boundaries and, as the landowner, decisions on exploring conservation agreements for these lands.

For matters related to irrigation expansion, we recommend contacting the irrigation district working with the MD of Taber. Irrigation districts operate under the *Irrigation Districts Act* and must follow a defined process when reviewing applications to add new parcels or irrigation areas. This includes providing public notice upon receiving an application and considering any written concerns before deciding. Decisions to approve or deny such applications can be appealed to the Irrigation Council under the *Irrigation Districts Act*. For more information, please visit alberta.ca and search for "Irrigation Council."

204 Legislature Building, 10800 - 97 Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada Telephone 780-427-2391

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Should you have further questions, please contact the Land Use Secretariat at luf@gov.ab.ca.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Schulz
Stewardship Minister and Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

cc: Honourable Danielle Smith
Premier of Alberta

Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation

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