

York Regional Council and others
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cc futureyork@york.ca

September 15, 2021

RE: September 16 Agenda Item C.1 Alternate 2051 Forecast and Lands Needs Assessment

Dear Members of Council,

Further to our letter of June 23, 2021, it appears that York Region is proceeding to pursue increased land needs assessment and its conversion without a clear commitment to watershed management, climate change, and meaningful public engagement.

As a result, we ask you to consider ways to assure conformity not only with the Growth Plan but with other key fundamentals to Ontario's future environment, social wellbeing, and economic vitality. We ask you to:

- 1.) Ensure conformity in this scenario exercise to the following section of the Provincial Policy Statement:
 - 2.2 *Water*
 - 2.2.1 *Planning authorities shall protect, improve or restore the quality and quantity of water by:*
 - a) *using the watershed as the ecologically meaningful scale for integrated and long-term planning, which can be a foundation for considering cumulative impacts of development..... ;*
- 2.) Direct staff to address watershed protection, climate change, and meaningful public engagement in the alternate forecast and land needs assessment; and,
- 3.) Require that proper sub-watershed and climate change plans be included in any future alternate scenarios for these land conversions, that they obtain meaningful public consultation, and that both components be presented to and approved by Council before any further such land conversion is given final approval by Council.

As we stated in June, we advise that the Region recognize that most downstream areas of many of South-central Ontario's watersheds, including those in York, have been intensively developed, creating poor ecological conditions that include reduced and fragmented natural habitat as well as poor water quality and leaving headwater areas as de facto reservoirs of regional forests, wetlands, wildlife, and water quality & quantity.

As a result, we must pay special attention that further development is not based on past protocols that will probably be inadequate to prevent serious negative cumulative impact to the whole watersheds, public health and well-being, and economic vitality.

Sincerely,

Andrew McCammon

Executive Director