



Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
Long Range Planning Branch

August 21, 2014

Ms. Barbara Konyi
Manager, Greenbelt Selection
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Local Government and Planning Policy Division
Provincial Planning Policy Branch
777 Bay Street, Floor 14
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 2E5

Dear Ms. Konyi

Re: Greenbelt Plan Area and Natural Heritage System Limits
Kennedy-McCowan, Robinson Creek Area Lands

This letter addresses the extent of Greenbelt Natural Heritage System, and Greenbelt Plan Area, on approximately 146 hectares of land, hereinafter referred to as the Subject Lands (see attachment 1).

Greenbelt and Official Plan Land Designation History

Portions of the subject lands have been identified by the Province as Greenbelt Natural Heritage System in both the draft and final versions of the Greenbelt Plan. The extent of lands designated Greenbelt Plan Natural Heritage System in the approved greenbelt plan significantly exceeds the lands identified in the draft mapping released in 2004 (see attachment 2).

Map 7 of the draft City of Markham Official Plan identified the extent of Greenbelt Natural Heritage System consistent with the approved Greenbelt Plan city wide. Markham Council, upon approval of the Plan, modified Map 7 to remove a portion of the Greenbelt Natural Heritage System designation on the Subject Lands (see attachment 3).

The Regional Municipality of York, when approving the City of Markham Official Plan, withheld its decision to remove the Greenbelt Natural Heritage System on the Subject Lands on Map 7 in the 2013 City of Markham Official Plan pending the outcome of the 10-year Provincial Review of the Greenbelt Plan.

Policy Context for Modifying the Greenbelt Natural Heritage System

Policy 3.2.2.6 of the Greenbelt Plan provides the following direction for modifying the Natural Heritage System:

When official plans are brought into conformity with this Plan, the boundaries of the Natural Heritage System may be refined, with greater precision, in a manner that is consistent with this Plan and the system shown on Schedule 4.

Proposed Modifications to the Greenbelt Natural Heritage System on the Subject Lands

The landowners' consultants have undertaken a review of information available on the natural heritage system within North Markham, and its functions, and have subsequently assessed the extent of Greenbelt Natural Heritage System, and Greenbelt Plan Area, on the Subject Lands.

York Region staff is of the opinion that some of the table lands within the subject lands, which were not included in the Greenbelt Plan area in the draft Greenbelt maps published in October 2004 but were subsequently included in the final maps, merit consideration for removal from the Greenbelt Plan area.

Sincerely,



Valerie Shuttleworth, MCIP, RPP
Director of Long Range Planning



Sandra Malcic, MCIP, RPP
Manager, Policy & Environment

Attachments: 1. Minotar, Halvan 5.5 and Beechgrove Estate Lands
2. Comparison of draft and final Greenbelt maps
3. Markham's Map 7

cc: Clay Leibel