

March 21, 2023

Re: Chedoke Creek Order – Remediation Update – GIC Agenda Item 9.5 March 22 2023

Hamilton City Council – GIC Committee

The Royal Botanical Gardens is pleased to continue to support the intended dredge work and provide access to the property as per the renewed agreement with the City of Hamilton.

In terms of the shorter-term condition of the creek waters and sediment we are noting our concern pertaining to timelines. The spill to be remediated was originally stopped in July 2018, but continues to be delayed for cleanup. We also highlight that Chedoke Creek discharges directly to the waterfront area and continues to be a highly polluted creek in need of shorter-term remediation measures beyond existing signage. Existing water quality conditions at the creek mouth for rain events and baseflow conditions are highlighted in the following examples. For larger rain events associated with combined sewers, at the largest CSO tank (Main King) overflows occurred 4 times in 2022, with the largest event about 58 million liters of water and lasting almost 24 hours (Feb 23, 2023). For perspective this is equivalent to filling the entire associated inlet area of Cootes Paradise Marsh completely with CSO water during typical summer water levels (i.e. from the marsh outlet at the Fishway back to Kay Drage Park). In addition, multiple uncontrolled CSOs continue to exist on this creek. For baseflow conditions (dry conditions) ongoing monitoring of surface water quality at the creek mouth continues to illustrate variable and problematic water quality conditions including phosphorus levels averaging about 10 times provincial guidelines for aquatic life (Station CC-SW3 Hamilton Surface Water Samples -ongoing online information). We emphasize that the local communities, First Nations, and Royal Botanical Gardens desire to have a healthy waterfront and environmental protection area and acknowledge the challenges associated with achieving this end goal.

We are fully supportive of the work to date and ongoing processes to establish long-term Chedoke Creek water quality remediation. We also recognize that this historically based situation is an example of why the Hamilton Harbour Area of Concern and associated funding processes were first established. We look forward to continued collaboration to restore reasonable water conditions to this region with all partners.

Thank you and we look forward to continued progress with the remediation.

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