

## City Council

### Motion without Notice

MM29.18	ACTION			Ward: 24
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#### **Scarborough Bluffs West Project: Environmental Assessment Agreement - by Councillor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher**

*\* This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

*\* This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

#### **Recommendations**

Councillor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher, recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the City Manager on behalf of the City to enter into an Agreement with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks as a co-proponent with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to apply the Environmental Assessment Act to the Scarborough Bluffs West Project.

#### **Summary**

In December 2021, City Council allocated \$2.912 million from the Toronto Water Capital Reserve (Resolution EX28.6) to the Scarborough Bluffs West (SBW) Project. The SBW study (the Project) will explore the enhancement and protection of sensitive shoreline and natural areas and opportunities for improved waterfront experience and access between the Eastern Beaches (Silver Birch Avenue) and Bluffer's Park along Lake Ontario. City Council also requested Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) to include the Project as part of the 2022 Budget process and directed the City Manager to enter into an agreement with TRCA to complete the Project.

The Project commenced on November 2, 2023 and following completion of several rounds of consultation through 2024, the Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) was released for public comment and agency review in July 2024.

In fall 2024, after reviewing the Draft ToR, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) contacted the Project team to confirm whether all future design options would meet the recently updated 2024 Environmental Assessment regulations. These new rules require at least 1 km of altered shoreline and 4 hectares of lakefill for a Comprehensive Environmental Assessment (CEA) to be mandatory. The Project team explained that not all future design alternatives would meet these thresholds, given that the intent of the Project is to explore a wide range of reasonable options, including tableland solutions and/or shoreline solutions that could be less than 1 km in total length or 4 hectares of lakefill. Subsequently, the Project team requested to voluntarily continue with the CEA process to undertake the same

high level of technical analysis and thorough public consultation that have been applied to other waterfront projects, and to conform to the requirements of the City's Official Plan.

The Project team has received MECP approval to proceed with a Voluntary Agreement to continue through the CEA process, which requires execution from both TRCA and the City as co-proponents on the Project.

**Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM29.18