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November 20, 2023

**RE: Project 24583- Trans Canada Highway 1- Selkirk Mountain 4 Laning
Redgrave Wildlife Culvert No 10275 & Wildlife Underpass No. 10349
Wildlife Crossing Riparian Prescriptions**

Attention: Leanne Garand

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) continues to update discrete sections of the Trans Canada Highway 1 between Kamloops and the Alberta Border as part of a longer term plan to increase overall safety, mobility, reliability and overall highway performance for the travelling public. A key part of the planning and design phases for the new improvement projects in the highway corridor includes ensuring issues such as potential habitat connectivity/fragmentation across the landscape and wildlife-vehicle interactions are effectively addressed. The incorporation of appropriate site-specific mitigation measures such as wildlife exclusion fencing systems (and inclusion of overpass/underpass structures) into highway improvement projects has proven very beneficial for affected wildlife populations across North America.

The Selkirk Mountain 4 Laning project referenced above will include the construction of two (2) large wildlife passage structures. The crossings are situated approximately 1km from each other and are referred to as the West (arch culvert) East (single span bridge) crossings respectively. Local habitat modelling and pre-construction (aerial and ground) surveys suggest that key species expected to utilize these structures on a frequent basis include, but are not limited to, grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos horribilus*), black bear (*Ursus americanus*), white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), moose (*Alces alces*), and wolves (*Canus lupus*). The overall seasonal utilization of the structures will fluctuate based on the individual life history stage requirements (i.e. periods of hibernation) of the various target species.

Noteworthy habitat enhancement features associated with each of these structures include a small non fish bearing (open channel) watercourse, wildlife pathways on either side of the stream(s) that flow beneath the new structures, the select placement of logs and other coarse woody debris (CWD), and incorporation of riparian planting measures in an effort to enhance overall site attractiveness and suitability for target wildlife species.

Specific plant species selected to enhance the west and east wildlife crossing structures include black huckleberry (*vaccinium membraceum*), red-osier dogwood (*cornus sericea*), oval-leaf blueberry (*vaccinium ovalifolium*), sitka willow (*salix sitchensis*), mountain alder (*alnus incana tenuifolia*), black gooseberry (*ribes lacustre*), birch leaved spirea (*spiraea betulifolia*), soopoplallie (*shepherdia canadensis*), and nootka rose (*rosa nutkana*), wild strawberry (*frageria virginiana*), twinflower (*linnaea borealis*), falsebox (*paxistima myrsinites*), bunchberry (*cornus canadensis*), and fireweed (*epilobium angulstifolium*). The various plant pot size(s) and general orientation on site are detailed in the **Schedule 7 Approximate Quantities and Unit Prices and shown Drawing(s) XX (including all applicable construction notes)** respectively.

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Yours truly,

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