

# Memo

To: Mayor Burton and Members of Council

From: Planning Services Department

CC: Neil Garbe, Commissioner, Community Development Services

Date: 23 February 2024

**Subject: Concerns and Recommendations on ERO #019-8016 – Regulatory changes under the *Endangered Species Act* to improve implementation of the species at risk program**

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Town staff provided comments to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks on the “Regulatory changes under the *Endangered Species Act* to improve implementation of the species at risk program” notice posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) No. 019-8016 on February 20, 2024. The proposed changes include (1) regulatory amendments regarding habitat protections for Redside Dace; (2) regulatory amendments regarding select conservation fund species and related administrative changes; (3) regulatory amendments to add newly listed species to existing conditional exemptions and other administrative changes to conditional exemptions; and (4) regulatory amendments regarding the conditional exemption for early exploration mining. Regulatory amendments 1-3 have direct or indirect implications on planning and operations in Oakville.

Due to consultation timelines, it was not possible to seek council endorsement prior to the deadline. Staff from Planning Services, Transportation and Engineering, Parks and Open Space, and Capital Works completed the comments and submitted a memo to the ERO. The memo summarizes staff comments related to challenges in protecting the natural heritage system in light of continued amendments to the *Endangered Species Act* as well as comments specific to the relevant proposed amendments. The ERO submission is attached.

If additional information is required, please feel free to contact Gabe Charles, Director, Planning Services.