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September 19, 2023

Rebecca Belanger

Manager, Planning Services
County of Essex
360 Fairview Avenue West, Suite 302
Essex, Ontario N8M 1Y6

Dear Ms. Belanger:

RE: Application for Official Plan Amendment OPA-03 Entire County of Essex
Applicant: County of Essex

The County of Essex is proposing an Official Plan Amendment to support local municipalities with carrying out Community Improvement Plans.

Our office understands that a Community Improvement Plan (CIP) is a tool enabled through the *Planning Act* that allows municipalities to provide tax assistance, grants, or loans to private property owners and tenants to assist in the revitalization of lands and/or buildings within a defined Community Improvement Project Area. Under Section 29(7.2) of the *Planning Act*, the County can support local municipalities for the purpose of carrying out a CIP with grants and incentives, provided the Official Plan of the County of Essex contains such provisions. The County does not have the ability to establish its own CIP. Our office understands that the proposed Official Plan applies to the entire County of Essex. The following is provided as a result of our review of OPA-03.

NATURAL HAZARDS AND REGULATORY RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES ACT, O. REG 686/21, PPS

The following comments reflect ERCA's role in protecting people and property from the threats of natural hazards and regulating development hazards lands under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Our office has no objections to the County of Essex Official Plan Amendment 03. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Alicia Good

Watershed Planner /ag