

# Appendix A

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**Letter Report  
Scoped EIS**

November 16, 2016

BEL 216437

Ms. Laurel McCarthy  
Watters Environmental Group Inc.  
8800 Dufferin Street, Suite 303  
Concord, ON L4K 0C5

Via email: [lmccarthy@wattersenvironmental.com](mailto:lmccarthy@wattersenvironmental.com)

**Re: Scoped EIS Chateau Laurier**

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Dear Ms. McCarthy:

The following content is provided to supplement the Scoped Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) standard form that has been filled in with the information relevant to the assessment completed by Beacon Environmental Limited (Beacon).

## **1. Introduction and Background**

Beacon Environmental Limited (Beacon) was retained to complete a Scoped EIS specific to the assessment of potential Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) nesting habitat in a multi-level parking garage at the Chateau Laurier (**Figures 1 and 2**). The potential presence of Barn Swallow as determined by the City of Ottawa at this location triggered the requirement for a scoped EIS as per the City's EIS guidelines.

Barn Swallow was designated Threatened and added to the province's Species at Risk in Ontario List in January 2012. The species is also designated threatened by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada although it is not on Schedule 1 of the federal *Species at Risk Act*. Under the provincial *Endangered Species Act* (ESA) Barn Swallow is protected from harm or harassment and has Habitat Protection. Although all habitat of the species is protected under the ESA, attention is focused on the nest and prescribed distances around it. Barn Swallows often build cup-shaped mud nests on human-made structures such as open barns, garages, under bridges and in culverts. The nests are often but not always re-used from year to year.

It is Beacon's understanding that modifications and/or re-development of the parking garage is being proposed.

## 2. Methods

### 2.1 Field Assessment

One Beacon staff member (Rob Willson) completed a site visit on November 11, 2016 to assess whether there was any evidence of Barn Swallows previously nesting in the multi-level parking garage on the subject property.

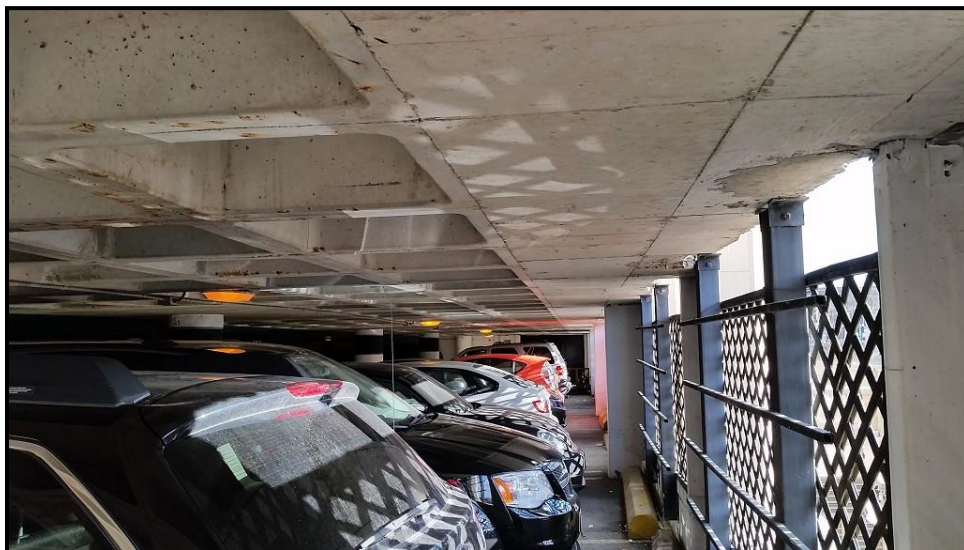
As illustrated in **Photograph 1**, the ceiling of each of the four levels has a gridded structure with cells 0.76 x 0.76 m with a depth of 0.3 m. Because of the limited visibility imposed by this structural characteristic it was necessary to systematically walk transects under accessible areas of the ceiling to visually confirm the absence of Barn Swallow nesting material. Portions of the ceiling were covered by fine netting (**Photograph 2**) to prevent debris from falling and these areas were not assessed as they were not accessible to birds. Additional areas that were not assessed were primarily on the first level and corresponded to parking spots occupied by large vehicles. Approximately 90% of the gridded ceiling could be visually assessed and all ceilings and walls adjacent to openings to the outside (e.g., **Photograph 3**) were assessed.



**Photograph 1. View of gridded ceiling (cells 0.76 x 0.76 m with a depth of 0.3 m)**



**Photograph 2. View of netting in the foreground that covered portions of the ceiling**



**Photograph 3. View of vehicles, height of ceiling and outside walls**

### 3. Results

No evidence of Barn Swallow nests or nesting activity were found.

Mud nests of wasps (**Photograph 4**) were found in numerous locations on the ceiling and evidence of one American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) nest and one Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) nest were observed.



**Photograph 4. View of mud nests of unidentified mud-daubing species of wasp**

### 4. Assessment of Impact and Recommendations

Given that no evidence of previous nesting by Barn Swallow was found during the site visit, there will be no loss of nesting habitat resulting from the proposed development and site alteration in the parking garage. However, given the ability of birds to nest in new areas in any one year, these findings do not preclude Barn Swallows choosing to nest in the parking garage in 2017 or beyond. Once Barn Swallows begin to nest in an area, construction activities may have to be altered depending on proximity to the nest to ensure compliance with the ESA.

As such, the following recommendations are provided to minimize the risk of the project being affected (e.g., being delayed or modified).

1. Complete construction activities outside of the breeding season for Barn Swallow (breeding season is April through August);
2. If it is not possible or practical to complete construction activities outside of the breeding season for Barn Swallow (April through August) then the following options should be considered:

- a. Install exclusion netting prior to April in the areas where construction will occur to prevent Barn Swallows from nesting;

Or

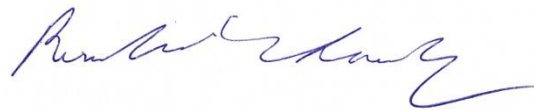
- b. Conduct three site visits during the Barn Swallow's breeding season between May and June of the year when construction is to occur to confirm that the species is absent;
  - i. If nesting activity by Barn Swallows is observed, then the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) should be contacted to determine appropriate mitigation measures;
  - ii. If Barn Swallows are absent then no mitigation is necessary.

Report prepared by:  
**Beacon Environmental**



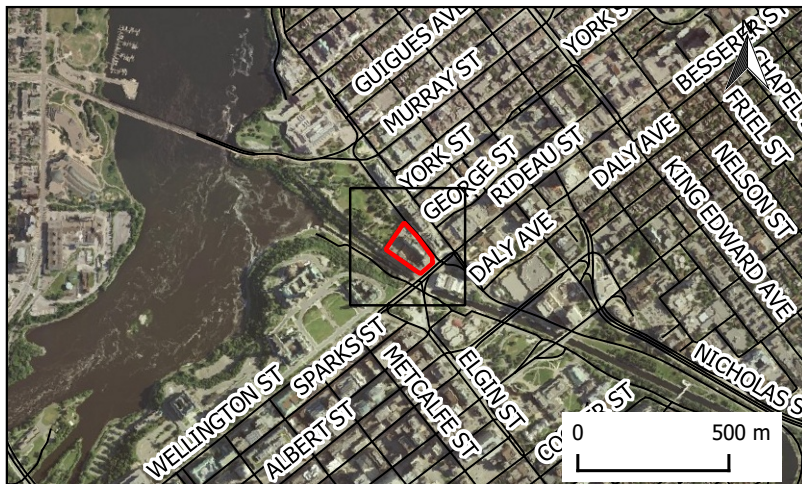
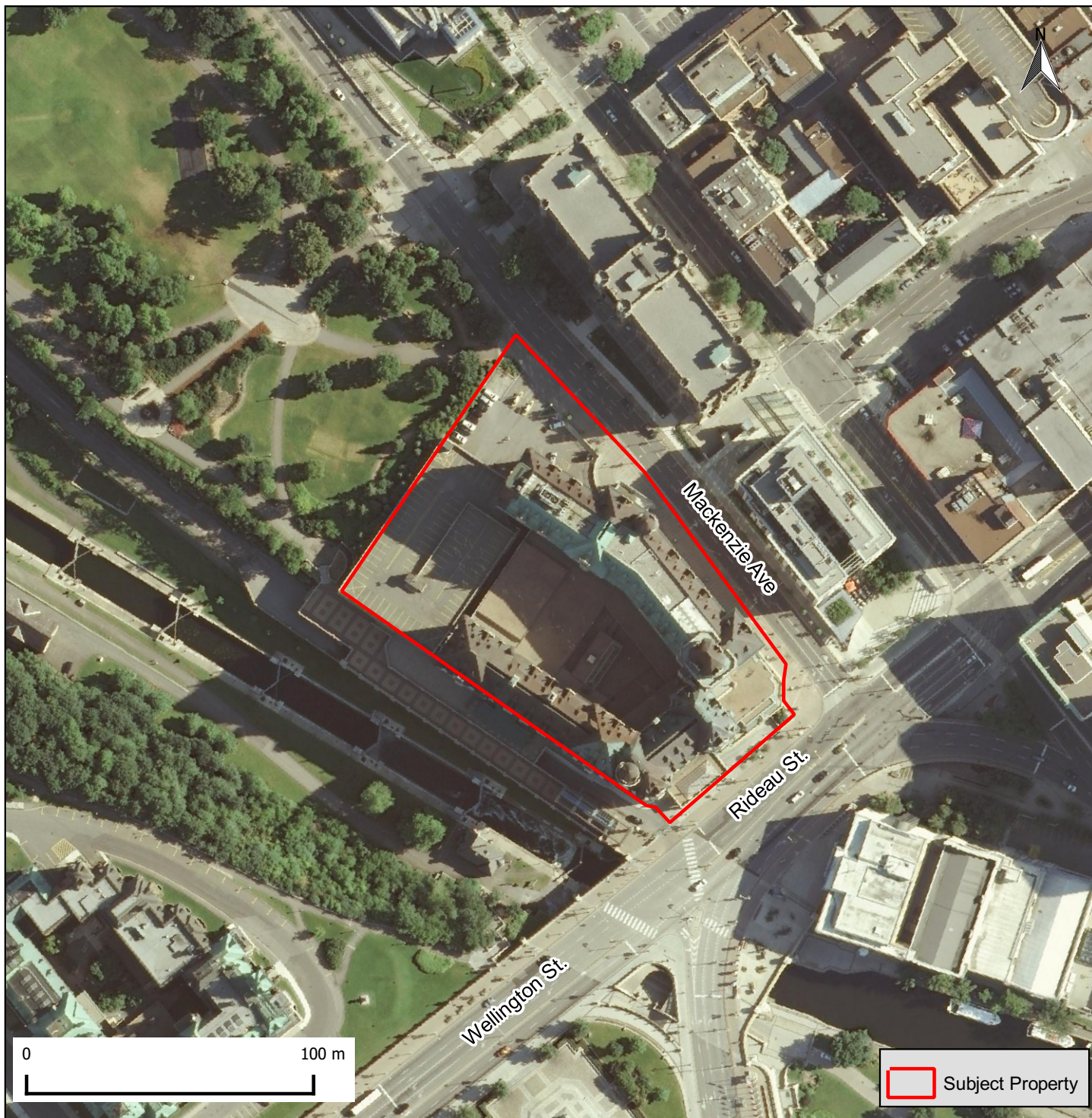
Rob Willson, M.Sc.  
Senior Ecologist

Report reviewed by:  
**Beacon Environmental**



Rosalind Chaundy  
Senior Ecologist





Project #: 216437  
Last Revised: Nov 2016

Prepared by: RW  
Checked by: RC

Project: Chateau Laurier Scoped EIS

Location: 1 Rideau St. Ottawa

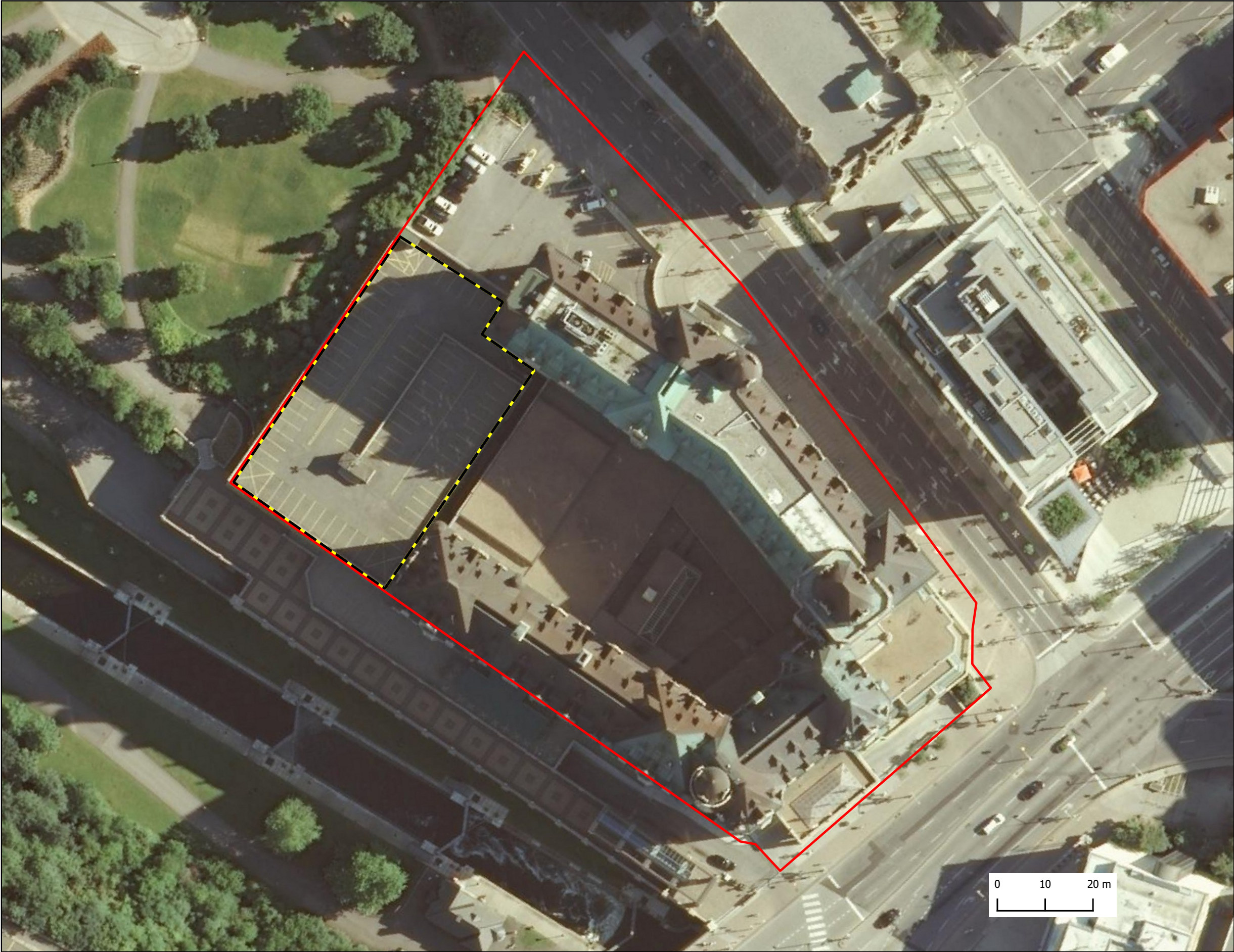
Client: Watters Environmental Group Inc.

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**Site Location**

**Figure 1**





Legend

-  Subject Property
- Proposed Development and Site Alteration**
-  Multi-level Parking Garage



Project: 216437  
Last Revised: Nov 2016



1:800

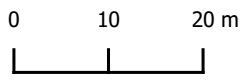
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Proposed Development

Figure 2