

# Special Areas Water Supply Project (SAWSP)

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*March 2020*



Special Areas Board  
EST. 1938

# Agenda

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- Introductions
- Special Areas Water Supply Project (SAWSP)
  - Jordon Christianson (*Special Areas Board*)
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
  - Jason Duxbury (*Klohn Crippen Berger*)
- Socio-Economic Impact Analysis
  - Mark Anielski (*Anielski Economics of Well-Being*)
  - Darrell Toma (*Toma & Bouma Management Consultants*)
- Q & A

# Special Areas Water Supply Project

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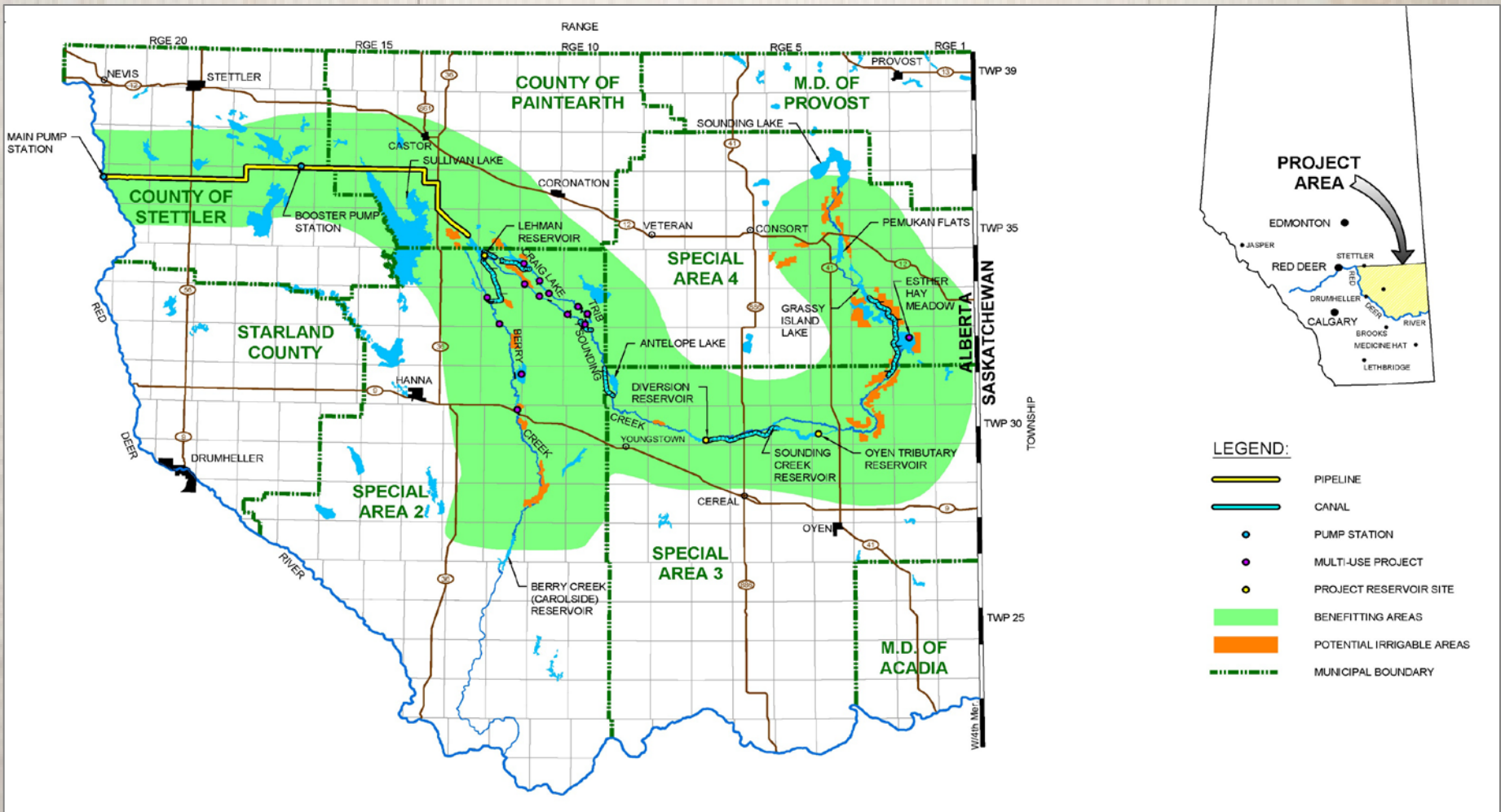
- What is the Special Areas Water Supply Project?
  - This project is designed as a water supply system that takes water from the Red Deer River and distributes it throughout the region.
  - It would support municipal stock watering, irrigation, drought mitigation, and riparian area enhancements.

# Special Areas Water Supply Project

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- What is the Special Areas Water Supply Project?
  - The current project design includes:
    - 103 kms of pipeline
    - 8000 acres of irrigation
    - 14 multi-use projects
    - 3 reservoirs

# Special Areas Water Supply Project





# Special Areas Water Supply Project

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## Project History

- In development since late 1980s
- Started as a series of studies into supplying water to this region of the province (Special Areas Board, Government of Alberta, Ducks Unlimited)
- Multiple revisions throughout development process
  - reduced water diversion rate, irrigation acres, and number of projects

# Special Areas Water Supply Project

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## Project Timeline

- 1988 to 2015
  - Design studies being completed
- 2011
  - Cabinet (Alberta Government) orders an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) be undertaken
- 2019
  - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report is completed

# Special Areas Water Supply Project

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## Project Roles (1 of 3)

- **Special Areas Board (SAB)**
  - Project champion – working to bring project forward with Alberta Government
- **Alberta Transportation (AT)**
  - Project proponent (during EIA) – managed EIA work
  - If project approved by Gov't of Alberta, AT would construct the project



# Special Areas Water Supply Project

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## Project Roles (2 of 3)

- **Alberta Environment & Parks (AEP)**
  - Regulatory agency responsible for coordinating technical review of EIA report
- **Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB)**
  - Responsible for reviews of proposed major natural resource projects
  - Conducts public interest reviews to determine if a proposed project is in the public interest

# Special Areas Water Supply Project

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## Project Roles (3 of 3)

- **Alberta Government (Cabinet)**
  - Makes final decision on proceeding/not proceeding with proposed infrastructure project after NRCB public interest review

# Special Areas Water Supply Project

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## Project Status

- Phase 1 is complete
  - Included completion of the EIA report
- Phase 2 is not complete
  - Would include technical review by AEP
  - Could include NRCB review of SAWSP (i.e. "public interest determination")

# Special Areas Water Supply Project

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## Project Costs

- Phase 1 (Project development & EIA) - complete
  - **Total costs - \$3.63M**
    - Special Areas has funded \$1.92M (53%)
    - Province has contributed \$1.71M (47%)
- Phase 2 (technical review & NRCB submission)
  - Estimate for technical review - **\$1M+**
  - Estimate for NRCB submission - **\$2M to \$10M**

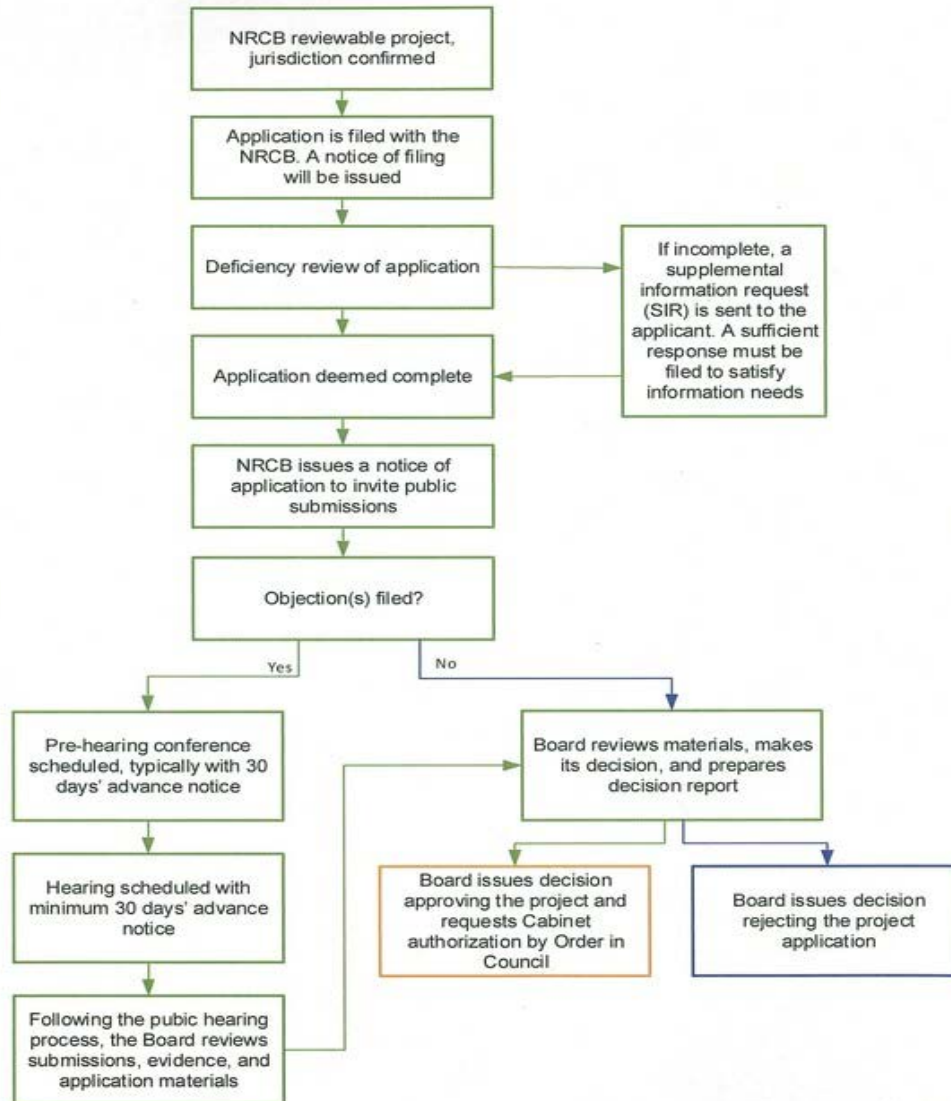
# Special Areas Water Supply Project

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Board

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*Review  
process  
overview*

NRCBA Board Review Process Flowchart (Generic)





# Special Areas Water Supply Project

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## What to do now?

- **Option 1 – do not submit EIA**
  - Estimated cost - \$0
- **Option 2 – submit EIA for technical review**
  - Estimated cost - \$1M+
- **Option 3 – submit EIA for technical review and request NRCB determination**
  - Estimated cost - \$2M to \$10M

# Special Areas Water Supply Project

