



Special Areas Water Supply Project

The Special Areas Water Supply Project (SAWSP) is a proposed water infrastructure project that transports water from the Red Deer River for use in this region. It would support local stock watering opportunities, irrigation projects, drought mitigation work and enhance riparian areas.



- 103 kms of pipeline
 - 270 farms benefit
 - 8000 acres irrigation
 - 14 multi-use projects
 - 3 reservoirs
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- \$410M* to construct
 - \$ 5.6M* to operate (annually)
 - \$ 4.2M* annual production benefits to region
 - 0.12-0.13 benefit/cost ratio*

**estimated in 2019 dollars*

PROJECT ROLES

- **Special Areas Board (SAB)**
Project champion working with to bring project forward to Government.
- **Alberta Transportation (AT)**
Project proponent - managed EIA work and would construct project if approved for construction.
- **Alberta Environment & Parks (AEP)**
Regulatory agency coordinating technical review of Environmental Impact Assessment.
- **Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB)**
Quasi-judicial tribunal that determines if a project is in the public interest.

1988

Design studies initiated.

Project concept -

- Diversion at 7.0 m³/sec
- 20,000 acres irrigation
- 27 multi-use projects

2004

Diversion reduced to 5.0 m³/sec

2007

Diversion reduced to 2.5 m³/sec

2011

Cabinet approves EIA

Project concept -

- Diversion at 2.5 m³/sec
- 8,000 acres irrigation
- 14 multi-use projects

2019

AT completes EIA work for SAWSP



Environmental Impact Assessment

An environmental impact assessment (EIA) is a process which examines a proposed project to determine what the environmental, social, economic, and health implications may be. It is the first of four regulatory steps for projects like the SAWSP.

The EIA work for SAWSP was started in 2011, and was completed in 2019.

PROJECT STATUS

- ✓ **Phase One -**
complete EIA work
- ? **Phase Two -**
National Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) review

Since 2004, over \$3.63M has been invested in developing SAWSP and completing the EIA.

Special Areas has invested \$1.92M and the Province has contributed \$1.71M.

Any decision on moving forward with SAWSP rests with the Province after NRCB completes a public interest determination.

01

Do not submit EIA for technical review

Do not submit EIA to Alberta Environment & Parks for technical review.

Estimated cost: \$0

02

Submit EIA for technical review.

Submit EIA to Alberta Environment & Parks for technical review.

Estimated cost: \$1M plus

03

Submit EIA, request NRCB review

Submit EIA to Alberta Environment & Parks and request direction for NRCB to review SAWSP.

Estimated cost: \$2M to \$10M

