

MD OF ACADIA & SPECIAL AREAS JOINT IRRIGATION STUDY

Quarterly Project Update | Issue No. 3 | May 2024

A MESSAGE TO OUR READERS

This document is the third in a series of status updates for the current phase of the MD of Acadia & Special Areas Joint Irrigation Study. Refer to the “Project Updates” section of the Special Areas website, Regional Irrigation tab (<https://specialareas.ab.ca/regionalirrigation/>) for earlier updates.

RECENT PROJECT HAPPENINGS

An invitational Open House was held in Calgary on May 1 with members of the Treaty 7 Nations in attendance. A second Open House was held in Acadia Valley on May 2. Attendees at both events had the opportunity to ask questions, provide feedback and learn the status of the study.



Project team members shared updates by walking guests through a series of information boards regarding topics such as crops & soils, water availability, water modelling, anticipated infrastructure, energy costs, engagement activities, and environmental considerations. Copies of the information boards can be found on the Special Areas Board website (<https://specialareas.ab.ca/regionalirrigation/>).

What Was Discussed at the Events?

There was significant interest in the project and opportunity for regional benefits, including strong support among local producers. Open House attendees appreciated the chance to meet with the Project Partners and team members to review drawings, maps, photos, and other information – and to be able to have their questions answered. Opportunities to incorporate traditional knowledge and honour Indigenous culture were identified and discussed. Attendees expressed a strong interest in receiving more details on the project as they become available, particularly related to costs, timelines, long-term water availability, and environmental implications. Continued engagement was noted as being of critical importance.

What Comes Next?

The Phase 2 study will continue, with the next few months focussing on environmental and geotechnical field work and progression of the design basis, project optimization, and cost estimates. Additional engagement activities, including meetings and a final Open House are anticipated for early 2025. The results of the engineering analysis and cost estimates are anticipated to be shared at that time. Following completion of the Phase 2 report in Spring 2025, the Project Partners will evaluate the outcomes and decide on the next steps for project continuation. Please continue to check our website for updates and send questions or comments to public.input@specialareas.ab.ca.

CONTACT

For more information, contact:
public.input@specialareas.ab.ca

