

MD OF ACADIA & SPECIAL AREAS JOINT IRRIGATION STUDY

Quarterly Project Update | Issue No. 5 | November 2024

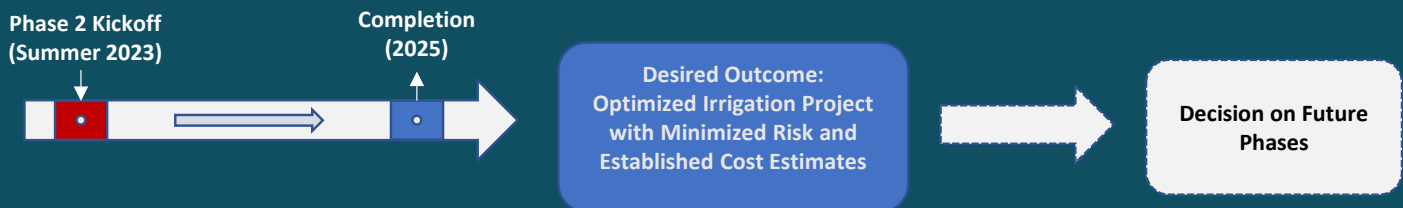
A MESSAGE TO OUR READERS

In March 2021, the Government of Alberta, Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB), MD of Acadia (MDA) and Special Areas Board (SAB) reached a Memorandum of Understanding to assess the technical and financial feasibility of irrigation expansion in east-central Alberta. A Phase 1 project feasibility report was completed in 2022 and is available on SAB's website (<https://specialareas.ab.ca/regionalirrigation/>) under the "Technical Information" section:

This Quarterly Update document is the fifth in a series of status updates for the second phase of the project. It is available on the SAB website along with the previous updates.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THIS PHASE?

STUDY PROCESS



Phase 2 of the MD of Acadia & Special Areas Joint Irrigation Project further investigates potential challenges and risks and explores ways to optimize the path forward. Phase 2 activities include:

- Engineering and related work including field studies, water availability analysis, conceptual design of major infrastructure components, review of power supply and demand, and initial cost estimating
- Continued engagement with public and regulatory bodies
- Financial analysis and potential revenue generation development



Cushion Cactus (left) and Scarlett Mallow (right) Found During Environmental Field Survey. Photo Credit: Associated Environmental.

CURRENT QUARTER ACTIVITIES

- Refinement of project layout, including number and location of potential irrigation blocks, reservoirs, canals, pump stations, and pipelines.
- Review of environmental field data, including trail camera footage and wildlife and habitat assessment results.
- Climate stress testing related to water management modelling.
- Progressed project financial and economic analysis.
- Analyzing costing and build-out alternatives for energy supply options.
- Detailed analysis of factors such as water intake and distribution, geotechnical analysis, reservoirs, conveyance, and land drainage.

WORK ANTICIPATED NEXT QUARTER

- Completion of the Water Management Model.
- Completion of further analysis of factors including project cost and energy demand.
- Posting of the final Environmental Terms of Reference.
- Future engagement events are being planned. Interested parties can watch SAB's website for updates.



Environmental Field Survey Around North Reservoir. Photo Credit: Associated Environmental.

CONTACT

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Alberta

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Special Areas Board
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