

Town of Bassano Public Notice

March 3, 2021

For immediate release

Subject: Town of Bassano Wastewater Treatment Upgrades Project

The Town of Bassano is pleased to announce that the Wastewater Treatment Upgrades project is now underway having received final approval from Infrastructure Canada's (INFC) Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. Upgrades are required to bring the system into compliance with current provincial standards. This is welcoming news for our community, as we have been working to bring this project together for many years.

This project will improve the Town's Wastewater Treatment System and provide a sustainable outlet for the discharge of treated effluent. The project includes upgrades to the existing lagoon anaerobic and facultative cells, construction of a new seven-month storage cell, and treated effluent irrigation system. The irrigation system includes a pump station at the storage cell, a treated effluent pipeline from the storage cell to the treated effluent irrigation site, and a central irrigation pivot. A quarter section of land will be purchased by the Town to irrigate the treated effluent. A site plan for the project is shown on the included Figure 1. The project should be highlighted for its sustainability, its environmental, and agricultural benefits including waste re-utilization and water conservation through the re-use of treated effluent.

The lands at the lagoon and irrigation site will be owned by the Town. All crossing agreements are in place with Alberta Transportation, the County of Newell, and landowners for the pipeline segment of the project. The pipeline will be bored under the TransCanada Highway #1.

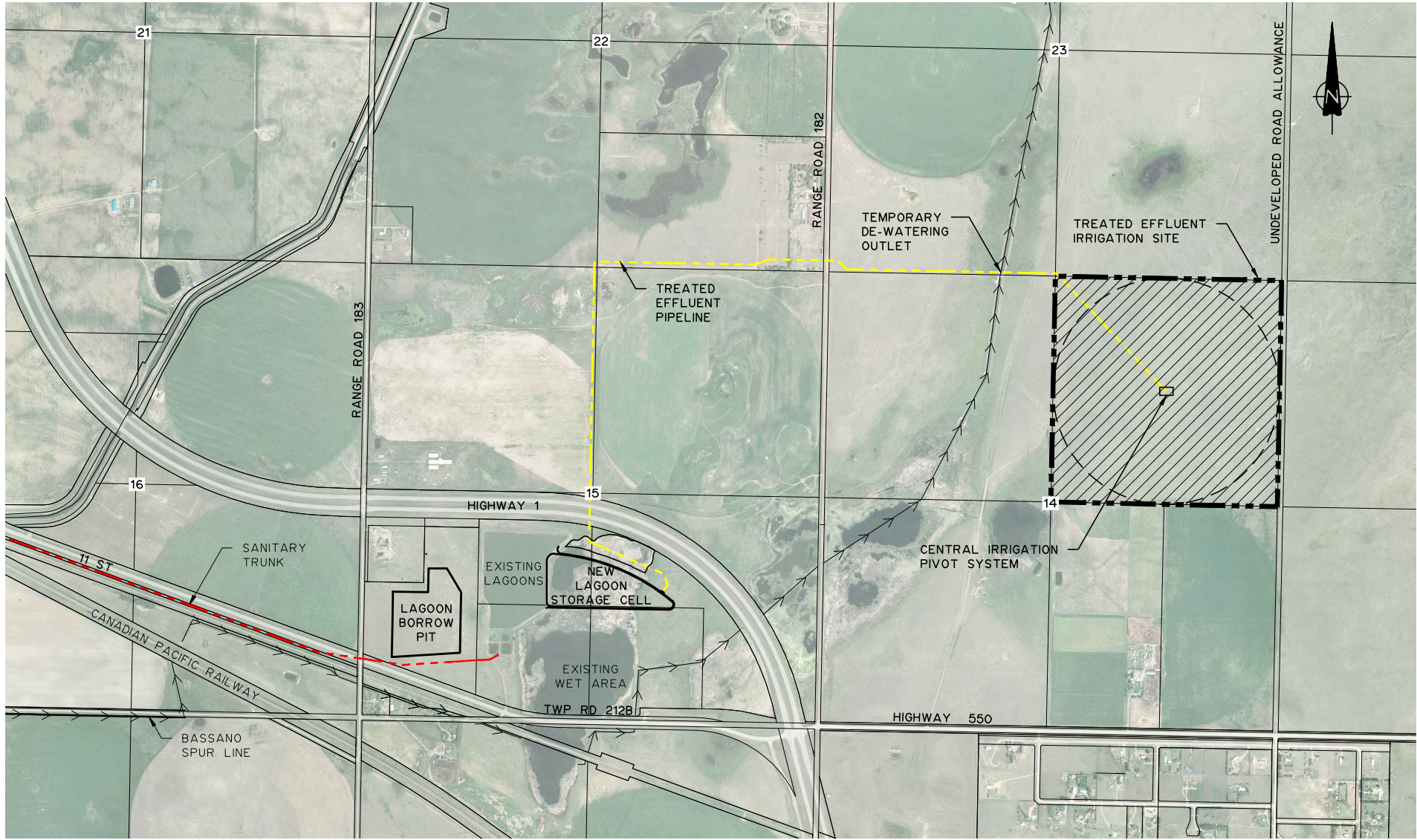
An environmental assessment was completed for the lagoon site, pipeline route, and irrigation site to identify biophysical attributes within the area and provided mitigation strategies for any identified concerns. Site assessments were conducted in the fall of 2019 and the fall of 2020. Mitigation strategies include completion of construction activities outside of sensitive periods, additional wildlife sweeps prior to construction by a competent wildlife professional, and avoidance of areas with sensitive wildlife.

The new lagoon storage cell will be constructed in a wet area adjacent to the existing active lagoon as approved by Alberta Environment and Parks. To minimize the impact to wildlife in the area, the Town has begun removing vegetation in the wet area as recommended by our environmental consultant. The wet area must be dewatered to complete construction of the storage cell. The Town is working with the Eastern Irrigation District and downstream landowners to secure a temporary dewatering outlet for the water from the surface and ground water from the footprint of the new storage cell. Dewatering of the wet area and other site preparations for the lagoon storage cell should begin by mid-April 2021. Construction is expected to be complete by late 2021 with the potential for some remedial work to finish in early 2022.

The total project cost is estimated at \$7,020,000 and is funded in partnership with the federal government, provincial government, and the Town. The Town's portion is funded from a capital reserve dedicated for the lagoon project, and our Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) capital allocation.

The Tender closes on March 23, 2021 and it is expected that Council will award the project by March 26, 2021.

Information will continue to be shared on the Town's website, Facebook and in the bi-monthly newsletters.



TOWN OF BASSANO
 WASTEWATER TREATMENT UPGRADES
 OVERALL SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1:20 000

DATE: MARCH 2021

JOB: 1446-007-00

FIGURE: 1