

August 7, 2025

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RE: Chin Reservoir Expansion Project Response to Supplemental Information Request #1

Dear Ms. Watson and Ms. Friend:

St. Mary River Irrigation District (SMRID) is applying to Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) for approval to construct and operate the Chin Reservoir Expansion Project (the Project).

In August 2024, SMRID submitted the *Chin Reservoir Expansion Project Environmental Impact Assessment* (EIA) to EPA and NRCB for review and to support formal application for approval. SMRID received a final compiled supplemental information request (SIR) from EPA and NRCB on November 8, 2024, referred to as SIR#1. Since receiving SIR#1, SMRID has met with EPA and NRCB subject matter experts on numerous occasions to discuss the information requests in greater detail. SMRID is pleased to provide the appended response to SIR#1.

Project Description

Chin Reservoir is an off-stream storage reservoir that is located within the SMRID system, approximately 10 km southeast of the Town of Coaldale (Figure 1). Chin Reservoir is the largest off-stream reservoir within the SMRID and has a current storage volume of 217,679 dam³ (176,475 ac-ft) and live volume of 190,350 dam³ (154,320 ac-ft) at an operating Full Supply Level (FSL) of 861.36 m. Chin Reservoir is currently impounded by two dams: the West Dam and the Existing East Dam. The dams were completed in 1955 and no major modifications have been undertaken since construction. Water enters Chin Reservoir from the main canal through the Chin Hydro Plant and/or Chin Chute. The only outlet on the reservoir is the irrigation outlet structure on West Dam which discharges into Stafford Reservoir. SMRID proposes to expand the reservoir by moving the Existing East Dam approximately 10 km downstream and raising the design FSL to 864.00 m. With the dam relocation and the rise in FSL, the total estimated storage would increase to 390,571 dam³ (316,641 ac-ft).

Given the potential for the enhancement of regional drought resiliency and flood mitigation, the SMRID believes the Project is in the public interest and seeks Project Approval under the

Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA) (R.S.A. 2000, c. E-12) and the Natural Resources Conservation Board Act (NRCBA) (R.S.A. 2000, c. N-3).

Organization of the SIR#1 Response Package

Responses to the EPA/NRCB SIR questions are provided in nine sections corresponding to the organization of the original SIR#1 document as follows:

- Section 1: Acronyms
- Section 2: NRCB
- Section 3: General
- Section 4: Air
- Section 5: Water
- Section 6: Terrestrial
- Section 7: Health
- Section 8: Approvals
- Section 9: Errata

Appendices referenced in the Response to SIR#1 have been provided as two separate volumes to maintain a manageable file size:

- SIR#1 Appendices: Volume 1 – containing Appendix 1.1, the New East Dam Preliminary Design Report (KCB 2023)
- SIR#1 Appendices: Volume 2 – containing remaining referenced Appendices 1.2 to 169.1

Regards,



David Westwood
General Manager
St. Mary River Irrigation District