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# Volume 1, Section 12 Snake Lake Reservoir Expansion Project Project Description Public and Indigenous Engagement

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Submitted to:



a division of Englobe

MPE

A division of Englobe,  
Lethbridge, Alberta

On Behalf of:



Eastern Irrigation District  
Brooks, Alberta

Submitted by:



AAR Environmental Services  
Calgary, Alberta



March 25, 2025  
AARES Project #: 21-127



## Executive Summary

The Eastern Irrigation District (EID) is proposing an expansion (the Project) of the Snake Lake Reservoir (SLR), located between Bassano and Brooks, Alberta. The current reservoir stores 19.25 million m<sup>3</sup> of irrigation water. The Project would expand the existing SLR to a total storage capacity to 87.4 million m<sup>3</sup>.

The EID reached out to its members, the general public, and nearby Siksika Nation regarding the proposed SLR Expansion Project. This section summarizes this outreach to members of the public and Indigenous groups, as well as feedback received. Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (Alberta EPA) received public comments on the proposed Terms of Reference (PTOR) from three organizations and one individual, but no Indigenous groups. These concerns were evaluated by Alberta EPA and reflected in the final TOR (FTOR). The Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) provided a File Number for Consultation (FNC) response that this Project required no consultation for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report.

The EID has not received any public or Indigenous comments regarding the Project directly, though some environmental concerns have been voiced by environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS), through posting on their websites. These concerns have been addressed within this section and through this EIA. The EID has not received any requests for consultation from Siksika Nation or any other First Nations.

The EID will continue attempts to engage with the public and Indigenous groups throughout the approvals process and during Project construction and operations. The EID will address feedback and concerns from the public and Indigenous groups through communication about the Project, as well as Project mitigation and monitoring, as appropriate.

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## Abbreviations

ACO	Aboriginal Consultation Office
ACTWS	Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society
Alberta EPA	Alberta Environment and Protected Areas
AWA	Alberta Wilderness Association
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EID	Eastern Irrigation District
ENGO	Environmental Non-governmental Organizations
EPEA	<i>Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act</i>
FNC	File Number for Consultation
FTOR	Final Terms of Reference
GOA	Government of Alberta
PTOR	Proposed Terms of Reference
SAGE	Southern Alberta Group for the Environment
SLR	Snake Lake Reservoir



## **12.1 INTRODUCTION**

### **12.1.1 Background**

The Eastern Irrigation District (EID) is proposing an expansion (the Project) of the existing Snake Lake Reservoir (SLR), located in the County of Newell between Bassano and Brooks, Alberta. The Project will be an expansion of the SLR into sections 29, 30, 31, and 32 in Township 19, Range 6, W4M, and will increase storage capacity from the current 19.25 million m<sup>3</sup> (15,600 ac ft) to a total storage capacity of 87.4 million m<sup>3</sup> (70,900 ac ft) across the SLR and expanded Project. This expansion involves the construction of an 8 km long dam that will be up to 20 m high.

This report discusses Project engagement with the public and Indigenous communities, including ongoing engagement efforts and opportunities, outlined according to the final Terms of Reference (FTOR; Volume 2, Appendix A) for the Project.

### **12.1.2 Project Setting**

The Project is located within the Dry Mixedgrass Natural Subregion in the Grassland Natural Region of Alberta (Government of Alberta [GOA], 2006). Droughts occur every few years and result from prolonged periods of reduced precipitation and/or a sustained water deficit when evapotranspiration exceeds precipitation. The region is predominantly native grassland, pasture, and cultivated land, along with some residential and industrial development. The Project area consists mostly of native grassland and, until recently, was used primarily for livestock grazing, along with some oil and gas extraction. The Project area also contains wetlands and treed areas. The Project is located on private land owned and managed by the EID. Public access to the Project area is restricted to a public road allowance. Hunting and trapping within the Project area, both for the public and for local Indigenous communities, is currently prohibited. Further details describing the Project area are found in the baseline assessments in the Soil and Terrain (Volume 2, Section 9), Vegetation and Wetlands (Volume 2, Section 10), Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat (Volume 2, Section 11), and Land Use and Management (Volume 2, Section 13) sections of the Project Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The largest population centre near the Project is the City of Brooks, located 19 km to the southeast, with a population of 16,817 recorded in 2024 (GOA, 2025a). The closest community to the Project is Lathom Hutterite Colony, 6 km southwest of the Project. The few residences near the Project are acreages, with the closest 3.5 km to the northwest. Siksika Nation is the closest Indigenous community to the Project; Siksika Nation Reserve #146 is located 22 km northwest of the Project site.

### **12.1.3 Regulatory Context**

This EIA is a requirement for Project approval under the Alberta's *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* (EPEA). For further details on the approval process, see Volume 1, Section 2.4.1. The requirements of the EIA are outlined in the Project's FTOR (Volume 2, Appendix A), and include discussion of public and Indigenous engagement, which is the focus of this section.

The EID reached out to the Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) to determine Indigenous Consultation Requirements for this EIA, and related *Water Act* approvals. The EID received a File



Number for Consultation (FNC) response that “no consultation is required for the *Water Act* approval as applied for under FNC202251256, or the environmental impact assessment report” (see Attachment 12B).

## **12.2 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

### **12.2.1 Public Engagement Methods**

The EID conducted public engagement regarding the Project through stakeholder meetings and public communications as follows:

- annual update meetings and presentations;
- press releases; and
- social media communications.

A review of local and regional non-profit organizations’ websites identified written concerns regarding the Project, though some concerns applied to the expansion of irrigation in general.

The public also had an opportunity to engage in the Project assessment process through the Terms of Reference review process. Project information, maps and the proposed Terms of Reference (PTOR) were publicly posted on the provincial website (GOA, 2024a). The PTOR and public notice were available as of Oct 20, 2023, with comments accepted until December 8, 2023. The FTOR and public notice were posted on this same website on July 10, 2024. This notice also directed the public to further information on the Project available through the EID’s website (EID, 2020a) and the Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (Alberta EPA) EIA website (GOA, 2025b; GOA, 2025c), and provided contact information for the EID. Project information was and continues to also be available on the Water Portal website (Canada WaterPortal, 2025).

### **12.2.2 Concerns and Issues Raised During Public Engagement**

A detailed record of public engagement and communication regarding the Project is summarized in Attachment 12, Table 12A-1. To date, the EID has not received any direct public comments, concerns, issues or questions through these public engagement efforts regarding this Project. A review of non-profit organization websites revealed concerns about the Project and land management generally. These concerns have been summarized and addressed in Table 12-1.

Public comments on the PTOR were received from one individual and three environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS): the Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society (ACTWS), the Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA), and the Southern Alberta Group for the Environment (SAGE). These comments were posted publicly on February 14, 2024 (GOA, 2024b) and considered by Alberta EPA. The FTOR published by Alberta EPA on July 10, 2024 reflects these public comments and concerns, as Alberta EPA considered appropriate.

As part of these comments on the PTOR, SAGE requested an assessment of impacts associated with an “expansion of ~5,000 irrigation acres [2,023 hectares] that is proposed in conjunction with expansion of Snake Lake Reservoir”, referencing an EID information meeting for irrigators, held on February 10, 2021. However, the total irrigable area within the EID is not directly related to the reservoir expansion, as the EID is already approved under the *Irrigation Districts Act* (2000a) to irrigate 345,000 acres, which includes the 5,000 acres (2,023 ha) in question (EID, 2020b). The

EID uses a conservative approach towards increasing irrigable land, ensuring the system is sustainable even in drought years, rather than immediately maximizing their allocated irrigable land. There is no land specifically designated for irrigation as a result of this Project, and therefore additional lands in consideration for irrigation are not assessed in this EIA.

**Table 12-1: Summary of concerns from non-profit groups**

<b>Alberta Wilderness Association<sup>1,2,3</sup></b>		
<b>Issues, Concerns, and Feedback</b>	<b>Solution</b>	<b>Location</b>
Native grasslands restoration	Grassland Restoration Plan has been included in the EIA.	Volume 2, Appendix H9
Water scarcity concerns	Water scarcity is addressed through the EID's commitment to meet the instream flow objective for the Bow River. To be included in the Alberta Drought Plan and to propose this Project to store additional water off-stream.	Volume 1, Section 2
Impacts on climate change	A climate change assessment was examined to identify likelihood and frequency of future droughts.	Volume 2, Section 12
Socio-economic effects	Socio-economic impact assessment was examined to identify likelihood and frequency of future droughts.	Volume 2, Section 17
Cumulative effects especially with irrigation	Cumulative effects of the Project have been assessed wherever the impact assessment identified severe (moderate to high negative) Project effects on resources. However, this EIA assesses the effects of the Project, not the effects of irrigation generally. See Volume 1, Section 2 for further discussion on irrigation.	Cumulative Effects are addressed throughout Volume 2. Irrigation is discussed in Volume 1, Section 2. A cumulative effects assessment of potential increased irrigation beyond the Project is not part of this EIA.
Concerns about level of public consultation and lack of available information. AWA agrees reservoirs and irrigation are helpful for droughts and agriculture but are concerned that these projects could contribute to climate change through an increase of greenhouse gas emissions (like flooding native prairie grassland) resulting in carbon release from grasslands. Other options they proposed are, for example, growing crops that use less water and improving water use	Within the SLR EIA, these concerns are addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public consultation is addressed through items discussed in this section of the EIA;</li> <li>To reduce effects of greenhouse gas emissions, most topsoil is being stripped for reclamation or other purposes, so will not be flooded nor release methane or carbon dioxide in the reducing conditions below water;</li> <li>Comparison of water required for storage versus what could be saved through efficiencies is addressed; and</li> </ul>	Volume 1, Section 2 and 12 Volume 2, Section 9 and 12

Alberta Wilderness Association <sup>1,2,3</sup>		
Issues, Concerns, and Feedback	Solution	Location
efficiency rather than more reservoirs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The need to improve crops is discussed.</li> </ul>	
Concerns about the “largest irrigation expansion Project in Alberta’s history” and the intensification of water use in an already strained basin as 78% of water allocations in the Bow and Oldman River basins are used for agriculture. Ensure Alberta government protects in-stream flows for fish and other aquatic organisms	These concerns are for the Alberta government to consider and are out of the scope of this EIA (not included in the FTOR). Water allocation and approvals for irrigable land are separate processes.	N/A
Nature Alberta <sup>4</sup>		
Issues, Concerns, and Feedback	Solution	Location
Irrigation expansion within eight irrigation districts in the South Saskatchewan River Basin including increases in off-stream storage reservoirs and irrigation acres. Concerned that EIAs should be completed for these projects and want to ensure effects on aquatic habitat are assessed including cumulative effects. In addition, concerned about the effects on water quality from irrigation due to field runoff.	<p>Within this EIA, these concerns are addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>this Project will not include new irrigable acres;</li> <li>effects on water quality and aquatic habitats are addressed; and</li> <li>cumulative effects have been addressed.</li> </ul> <p>The provincial EIA does not include FTOR requirements to address cumulative effects on irrigation expansions, nor the effects of irrigation or agricultural runoff on water quality of the greater system. This scale of assessment would need to be addressed by the Alberta government.</p>	Volume 1, Section 7, 8

<sup>1,2,3</sup> (AWA, 2021; 2023; 2024); <sup>4</sup> (Nature Alberta, 2021)



### **12.2.3 Incorporation of Public Input**

Public concerns raised described above have been addressed in the EIA (see Table 12-1), including recommended mitigations and monitoring. Any public input received during ongoing engagement will be reviewed and management strategies will be adjusted as needed.

### **12.2.4 Ongoing Public Engagement**

The EID plans to maintain its engagement process following the completion of the EIA report. This includes continuing to engage with locals during the EID's annual general meetings, through social media, newsletters, and their website. Through these efforts, the EID will continue to engage with and respond to public concerns and interests throughout construction and operation of the Project.

## **12.3 INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT**

### **12.3.1 Indigenous Engagement Methods**

The EID has applied the requirements of consultation within Alberta and was guided by processes set out under various agencies including guidelines published by the ACO.

After the EID submitted the pre-consultation assessment request, Alberta EPA determined no consultation is required for the *Water Act* (2000b) approval as applied for under FNC202251256, or the EIA report (see Attachment 12B).

Alberta EPA provided additional guidance on the need for Indigenous engagement as well as whether Traditional Ecological Knowledge or Traditional Land Use studies were required. They stated that:

*“where Indigenous consultation has been determined it is not required ... a proponent may also choose to do an Indigenous consultation/engagement program if Indigenous groups have reached out, (and if so,) the proponent would explain their engagement program”*

While Indigenous consultation was not required by regulators, the EID voluntarily proceeded with Indigenous engagement with Siksika Nation, the First Nation closest to the Project, and with a prior working relationship with the EID (see Volume 2, Section 15: Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Traditional Land Use for further details). The EID and MPE contacted Siksika Nation via email on three occasions (see Attachment 12, Table 12A-2). Information on the Project has been publicly available through the various websites as detailed in Section 12.2.1. A Public Notice regarding the PTOR was also published in the province-wide Indigenous WindSpeaker newsletter (Attachment 12, Table 12A-2).

### **12.3.2 Concerns Raised During Engagement**

Attempts to reach Siksika Nation to arrange engagement meetings have not proven successful. No comments were received from Siksika Nation, nor other Indigenous groups, regarding the PTOR. The EID has not received any responses or requests for engagement regarding this Project, from any Indigenous groups. Alberta EPA has provided guidance that Indigenous Engagement and Traditional Use studies are not required in this situation.



Table 12A-2 (Attachment 12) contains a detailed record of the EID's Indigenous engagement efforts and communication for the Project. Documentation of these engagement efforts is presented in Attachment 12C. All attempts to engage with the Indigenous community located in closest proximity to the Project – Siksika Nation – resulted in no responses. Therefore, no concerns nor issues have been raised.

### **12.3.3 Incorporation of Indigenous Input**

As no Indigenous input was raised from engagement attempts, none was incorporated into Project development, impact mitigation, and planned monitoring. Indigenous input received during ongoing engagement will be reviewed and management strategies will be adjusted as needed.

### **12.3.4 Ongoing Indigenous Engagement**

The EID is willing to discuss the Project with Siksika Nation, and other interested Indigenous groups, should they reach out to EID at any time during planning, construction, or operation of the Project. Project information will also continue to be publicly available through the websites listed in Section 12.2.1.

## 12.4 REFERENCES

- Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA). (2021). *Concerns with an \$815-million Irrigation Expansion Project in Southern AB*. Retrieved from <https://albertawilderness.ca/concerns-with-an-815-million-irrigation-expansion-project-in-southern-ab/>
- AWA. (2023). *Proposed Terms of Reference Environmental Impact Assessment Report for Eastern Irrigation District's Proposed Snake Lake Reservoir Expansion Project*. Retrieved from [https://albertawilderness.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/20231124\\_It\\_eid\\_ptor\\_snake\\_lake\\_reservoir-signed.pdf](https://albertawilderness.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/20231124_It_eid_ptor_snake_lake_reservoir-signed.pdf)
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- EID. (2020a). *Eastern Irrigation District*. Retrieved February 2025, from <https://www.eid.ca/>
- EID. (2020b). 2021 Expansion Limit Change Bylaw. Retrieved October 2024, from [https://www.eid.ca/documents/bylaws/942\\_Expansion\\_Limit\\_Bylaw.pdf](https://www.eid.ca/documents/bylaws/942_Expansion_Limit_Bylaw.pdf)
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- GOA. (2006). *Natural Regions and Subregions of Alberta*. Edmonton: Natural Regions Committee. Retrieved August 28, 2024, from [https://www.albertaparks.ca/media/2942026/nrsrcomplete\\_may\\_06.pdf](https://www.albertaparks.ca/media/2942026/nrsrcomplete_may_06.pdf)
- GOA. (2024a). *Final Terms of Reference Environmental Impact Assessment Report For Eastern Irrigation District's Proposed Snake Lake Reservoir Expansion Project*. Retrieved from <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/environmental-assessment-eid-snake-lake-reservoir-expansion>
- GOA. (2024b). *Public Comments onproposed Terms of Reference for Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Reservoir Expansion Project*. Retrieved February 2025, from Environmental Assessment - Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Reservoir Expansion Project: <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/44e51af1-a2e8-4d40-8231-62d77852ebf3/resource/427c8f68-21dd-42f9-9b86-8941c7fbdd2c/download/snake-lake-ptor-public-comments-feb-14-2024.pdf>
- GOA. (2025a). *Office of Statistics and Information, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance*. Retrieved February 2025, from Brooks – Population: <https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/brooks/population/#/?from=2020&to=2024>.



- GOA. (2025b). *Current projects*. Retrieved February 2025, from Environmental Impact Assessments: <https://www.alberta.ca/environmental-impact-assessments-current-projects>
- GOA. (2025c). *Alberta Major Projects*. Retrieved February 2025, from <https://majorprojects.alberta.ca/#/>
- Nature Alberta. (2021). *Concerns Regarding a Proposed Irrigation Expansion Project in Southern Alberta*. Retrieved from <https://naturealberta.ca/concerns-regarding-a-proposed-irrigation-expansion-project-in-southern-alberta/>

## **Attachment 12**



**Attachments**

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**Table 12A-1: Record of public engagement and communication from Eastern Irrigation District regarding the Project**

Date	Organization	Type of Contact	Potential Audience Reached	Subject	Feedback Received	Action Taken by EID	Documentation
2020-12-03	Eastern Irrigation District	Meeting – In-person	Irrigators and community members in the County of Newell	Plebiscite: Proposed Increase in the Irrigation Expansion Limit Summary as it pertains to the Project: Proposes the Snake Lake Reservoir Expansion Project and how it would improve water security in the EID	No feedback regarding the Project was received	N/A	Proposed Increase in the Irrigation Expansion Limit
2021 (Annual Report)	Eastern Irrigation District	Mail – hard copy Meeting – In-person	Irrigators and community members in the County of Newell	Various Topics Regarding the Project: Status update on the Project, including funding and lands secured for the Project	No feedback regarding the Project was received	N/A	EID Annual Report 2021
2022 (Annual Report)	Eastern Irrigation District	Mail – hard copy Meeting – In-person	Irrigators and community members in the County of Newell	Status update on the Project: Project is in the phase of extensive engineering, geotechnical work, and regulatory process	No feedback regarding the Project was received	N/A	EID Annual Report 2022
2023-03-07	Eastern Irrigation District Annual General Meeting	Meeting - In-person	Irrigators and community members in the County of Newell	Snake Lake Reservoir Expansion Project Update	A few questions regarding the Project were raised from the floor <sup>1</sup>	Directors and the General Manager responded to various questions from the floor regarding the SLR expansion Project and other topics; no further questions or follow-ups occurred	EID Annual Report 2023
2023-10-24	Calgary Herald	Press	General Public in Calgary and nearby areas	Public Notice on the Project and public comment period for the PTOR	No direct response received. May have prompted written comments on the PTOR to Alberta EPA	N/A	Calgary Herald tear sheet



Date	Organization	Type of Contact	Potential Audience Reached	Subject	Feedback Received	Action Taken by EID	Documentation
2023-10-24	The Medicine Hat News	Press	General Public in Medicine Hat and nearby areas	Public Notice on the Project and public comment period for the PTOR	No direct response received. May have prompted written comments on the PTOR to Alberta EPA	N/A	Medicine Hat News tear sheet
2023-10-25	Brooks Bulletin	Press	General Public in Brooks and nearby areas	Public Notice on the Project and public comment period for the PTOR	No direct response received. May have prompted written comments on the PTOR to Alberta EPA	N/A	Brooks Bulletin Tear sheet
2024-07-31	Brooks Bulletin	Press	General Public in Brooks and nearby areas	Public Notice on the Release of the Final Terms of Reference and Project Update	N/A	N/A	Email communication with the Brooks bulletin. Brooks Bulletin Tear sheet
2024-03-05	Eastern Irrigation District Annual General Meeting	Meeting – In-person	Irrigators and community members in the County of Newell	EID provided an update on the status of the Project, costs, timeline etc. Irrigators were encouraged to reach out to Directors to discuss any matters of interest, including regarding SLR Expansion Project	No response received	N/A	2024 AGM Minutes  125 people were in attendance; attendees not recorded
2024-05-01	Eastern Irrigation District Newsletter	Newsletter	Irrigators and community members in the County of Newell	Project update provided	No response was received	N/A	2024-05 EID Newsletter



Date	Organization	Type of Contact	Potential Audience Reached	Subject	Feedback Received	Action Taken by EID	Documentation
2024-05-21	Eastern Irrigation District Facebook	Social Media	Irrigators and community members in the County of Newell	Snake Lake Reservoir Expansion Project Update	Only response was the following comment "An extremely important upgrade! Thanks EID!"	Comment was liked on Facebook	Screenshot of post
2024-07-23	Eastern Irrigation District Facebook	Social Media	Irrigators and community members in the County of Newell	Final Terms of Reference for Project Issued. Provided link to FTOR	No response received	N/A	Screenshot of post

Note: <sup>1</sup>Specifics on questions asked and feedback provided were addressed directly at the meeting but not recorded.

**Table 12A-2: Record of Indigenous engagement and communication from Eastern Irrigation District regarding the Project**

Date	Organization	Type of Contact	Potential Audience Reached	Subject	Feedback Received	Action Taken by EID	Documentation
2023-10-23	Siksika Nation <sup>1</sup>	Email	Sisika Community	Inform Siksika Nation about the Project	No response received	N/A	Email Threads (Attachment 12C)
2023-10-24 to 25	Windspeaker.com <sup>2</sup> (An Indigenous news publication)	Press	Indigenous Communities in Alberta	Public Notice on the Project and public comment period for the PTOR	No direct response received. No comments received from Indigenous groups on the PTOR to Alberta EPA	N/A	Windspeaker News screenshot and Email screenshot
2023-11-15	Siksika Nation <sup>1</sup>	Email	Sisika Community	Seeking Feedback	No response received	N/A	Email Threads (Attachment 12C)
2024-02-12	Siksika Nation <sup>1</sup>	Email	Sisika Community	Seeking Feedback	No response received	N/A	Email Threads (Attachment 12C)

Note: <sup>1</sup>Email Communication was sent to the following emails: richards@siksikanation.com (Richard Sparvier, Tribal Manager); cedrics@siksikanation.com (Cedric Solway, Consultation Coordinator); tommh@siksikanation.com (Thomas Many Heads, Director of Government and Industry Relations). <sup>2</sup>Contact through Tanis Jacob



## **Attachment 12B: Alberta EPA Letter**

September 26, 2022

File Number for Consultation: FNC202251256

Ryan Gagley, P.L. Eng.  
Engineering Manager  
Eastern Irrigation District  
Via e-mail: [ryan.gagley@eid.ca](mailto:ryan.gagley@eid.ca)

Dear: Mr. Gagley

Re: Pre-Consultation Assessment Decision – Eastern Irrigation District – Snake Lake Reservoir Expansion

In accordance with the Government of Alberta's *Policy on Consultation with First Nations on Land and Natural Resource Management* (2013) and the Government of Alberta's *Guidelines on Consultation with First Nations on Land and Natural Resource Management* (2014), Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) has reviewed this file and the Pre-Consultation Assessment request provided by Eastern Irrigation District regarding their proposed project.

Based on the information provided, AEP has determined no consultation is required for the Water Act approval as applied for under FNC202251256, or the environmental impact assessment report.

If new information becomes available regarding the approval required under the *Water Act* and there are changes to scope, scale, duration and intensity a new Pre-Consultation Assessment may be required.

This decision pertains only to the approvals under the *Water Act*. If additional approvals are required another Pre-Consultation Assessment may need to be completed.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 780-644-4983 or via email at [Lori.Havanka@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Lori.Havanka@gov.ab.ca).

Sincerely,

Lori Havanka  
Approvals Program Manager  
Approvals Unit, Regulator Assurance Section  
Alberta Environment and Parks

cc: Tanner Philipps, MPE Engineering Ltd., [tphilipps@mpe.ca](mailto:tphilipps@mpe.ca)  
Wayne Bessie, Senior Terrestrial Ecologist, Wetland Authenticator, AAR Environmental Services,  
[wbessie@aares.ca](mailto:wbessie@aares.ca)  
Kathleen Perchaluk, Consultation Advisor, Aboriginal Consultation Office,  
[Kathleen.Perchaluk@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Kathleen.Perchaluk@gov.ab.ca)



## **Attachment 12C: Engagement Documents**

## Devon Van Dasselaar

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**From:** Devon Van Dasselaar  
**Sent:** Monday, October 23, 2023 1:50 PM  
**To:** richards@siksikanation.com; Cedric Solway; tommh@siksikanation.com  
**Cc:** Kevin Whittmire; Ryan Gagley (ryan.gagley@eid.ca)  
**Subject:** Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project [Filed 23 Oct 2023 13:50]  
**Attachments:** L08 Snake Lake Notification Siksika Nation.pdf

**Categories:** Filed by Mail Manager  
**Tracking:** **Recipient**

**Delivery**

**Read**

richards@siksikanation.com

Cedric Solway

tommh@siksikanation.com

Kevin Whittmire

Delivered: 10/23/2023 1:50 PM

Read: 10/23/2023 2:10 PM

Ryan Gagley (ryan.gagley@eid.ca)

Please find attached a letter and information package for the Eastern Irrigation Districts Snake Lake Project.

We look forward to hearing your response. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Devon Van Dasselaar, P.Tech. (Eng.)  
Civil Engineering Technologist  
Tel. (403) 317-3612  
Email. [dvandasselaar@mpe.ca](mailto:dvandasselaar@mpe.ca)  
[www.mpe.ca](http://www.mpe.ca)





Siksika Nation  
PO Box 1314  
Siksika, Alberta  
T0J 3W0

October 23, 2023  
File: N:\15\60\193\L08

**Attention: Richard Sparvier  
Tribal Manager**

Dear Richard Sparvier:

**Re: Eastern Irrigation District - Snake Lake Reservoir Expansion**

The Eastern Irrigation District (EID) is working with MPE a division of Englobe (MPE) to expand the Snake Lake Reservoir. This project will support 50,000 acres of downstream irrigated agriculture. There will be no increases to the volume of water diverted, from the Bow River, by the EID and no increase in the maximum diversion rate. The project will, however, provide an opportunity to divert water to fill the reservoir when flows are abundant in the Bow River and reduce diversions from the river during periods of low flow.

Expansion of the reservoir will require construction of a new East Dam comprised of 8 km of dams which encompass the perimeter of the expansion area. The West Dam, Inlet Structure and adjacent East Branch Canal will be maintained during this project. Reservoir storage will increase from 19,000 dam<sup>3</sup> (15,600 ac-ft) to 85,000 dam<sup>3</sup> (69,000 ac-ft) with the expansion.

The proposed East Dam will incorporate a new Outlet Structure and will continue to deliver water into the existing Snake Lake Canal, but further downstream from its current location. With the additional reservoir storage capacity upgrades will be made to increase the Snake Lake Canal's conveyance capacity from 8.5 m<sup>3</sup>/s (300 cfs) up to 19.6 m<sup>3</sup>/s (700 cfs). The footprint of the reservoir expansion will be completely encompassed on private land.

The East Dam work will include the following scope:

- The new East Dam will be located 2.75 km east of the existing East Dam within N ½ 31-19-16 W4M, NW/NE/SE 32-19-16 W4M, NE/SE/SW 29-19-16 W4M and SE 30-19-16 W4M.
- With the dam relocation, the estimated storage will increase to 85,000 dam<sup>3</sup> (69,000 ac-ft) from 19,000 dam<sup>3</sup> (15,600 ac-ft), an increase of roughly 4.5 times.
- The new East Dam Outlet Structure will be located in NE 32-19-16 W4M, and will increase the capacity that the reservoir can release to 19.6 m<sup>3</sup>/s (700 cfs).
- The existing East Dam and East Dam Outlet Structure both located in NW 31-19-16 W4M will be removed.
- The East Dam project will rely on adequate freeboard to contain flood events.

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MPE submitted a Pre-Consultation Assessment to the Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) on August 25, 2022. MPE was informed by the ACO, on September 9, 2022, that the Snake Lake Reservoir Expansion Project has been assessed as Level 0 – No Consultation Recommended. The EID staff would like to discuss the project with the Siksika Nation given our history of collaboration on previous projects including the construction of Bassano Dam Emergency Spillway.

EID and MPE would like to meet with the Siksika Nation to discuss and review the project and potential concerns the Siksika Nation may have.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this project further, please contact me by email at [dvandasselaar@mpe.ca](mailto:dvandasselaar@mpe.ca) or at (403) 317-3612 at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,

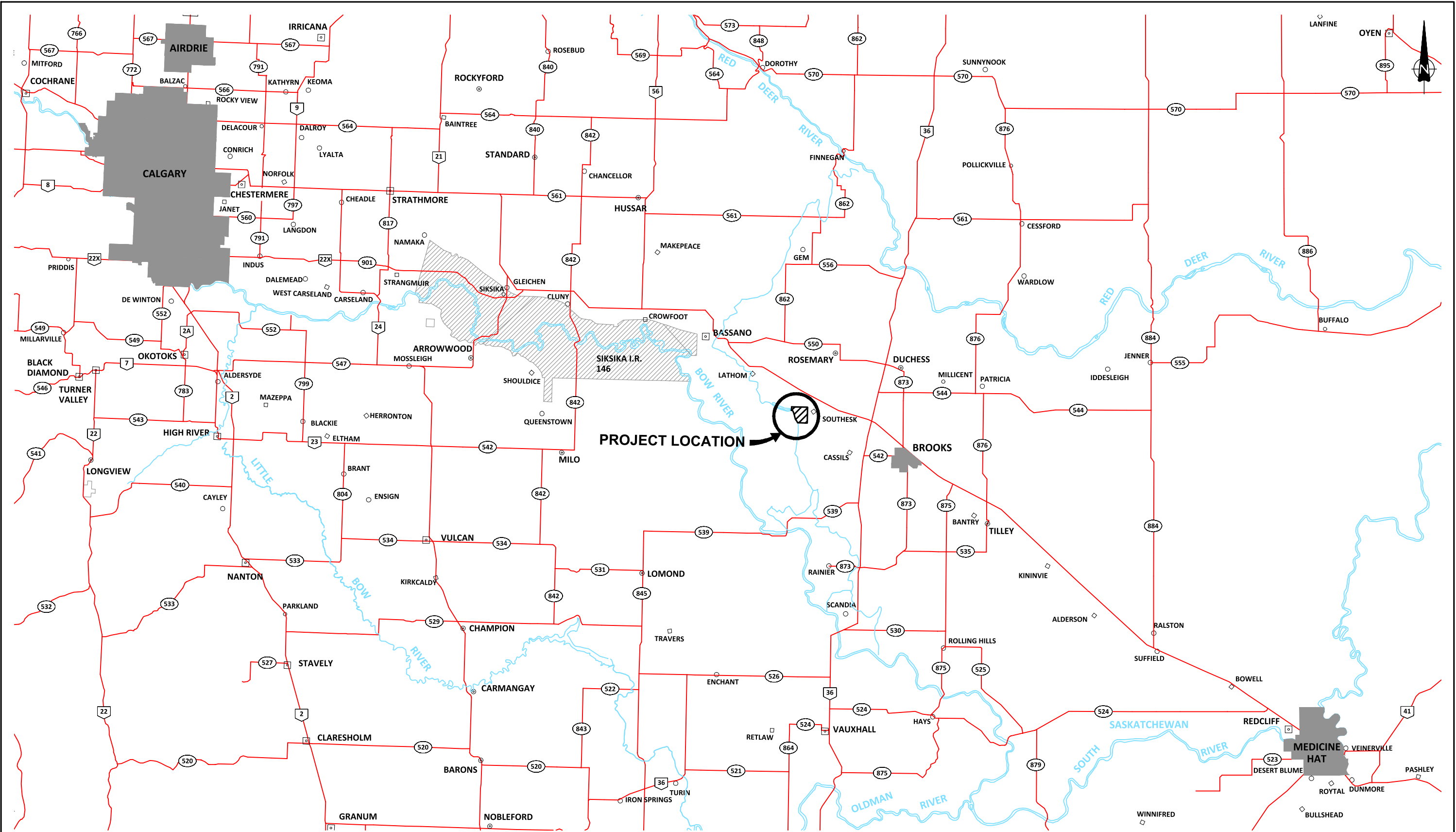
**MPE a division of Englobe**



Devon Van Dasselaar, P.Tech.(Eng.)  
Engineering Technologist.

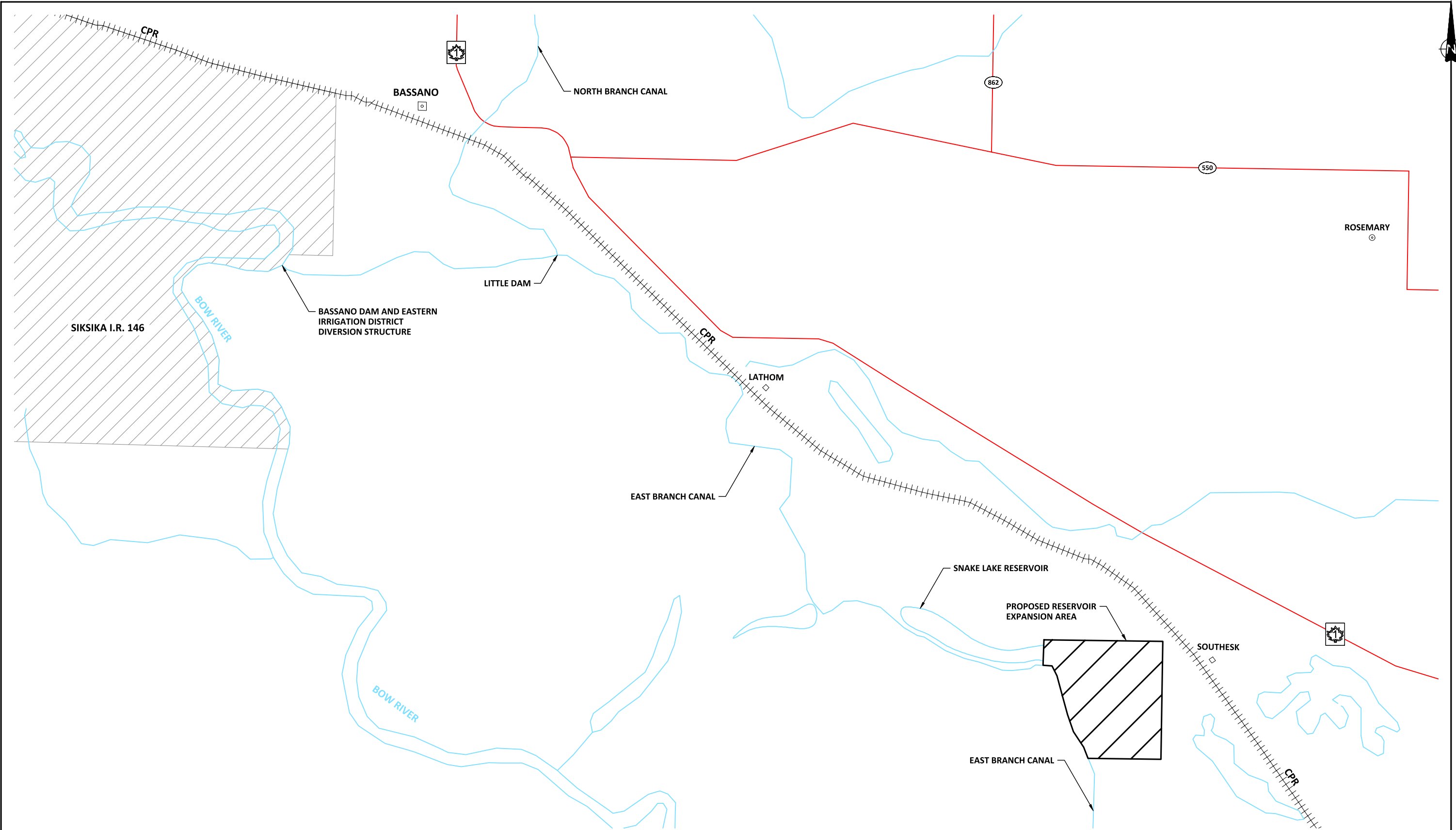
DV:mw  
Enclosure

cc: Cedric Solway, Consultation Coordinator  
Thomas Many Heads, Director of Government and Industry Relations



**EASTERN IRRIGATION**  
**SNAKE LAKE RESERVOIR EXPANSION**  
**LOCATION PLAN**

SCALE: 1:750 000	DATE: MAY 2022	JOB: 1560-193-00	FIGURE: 1.1
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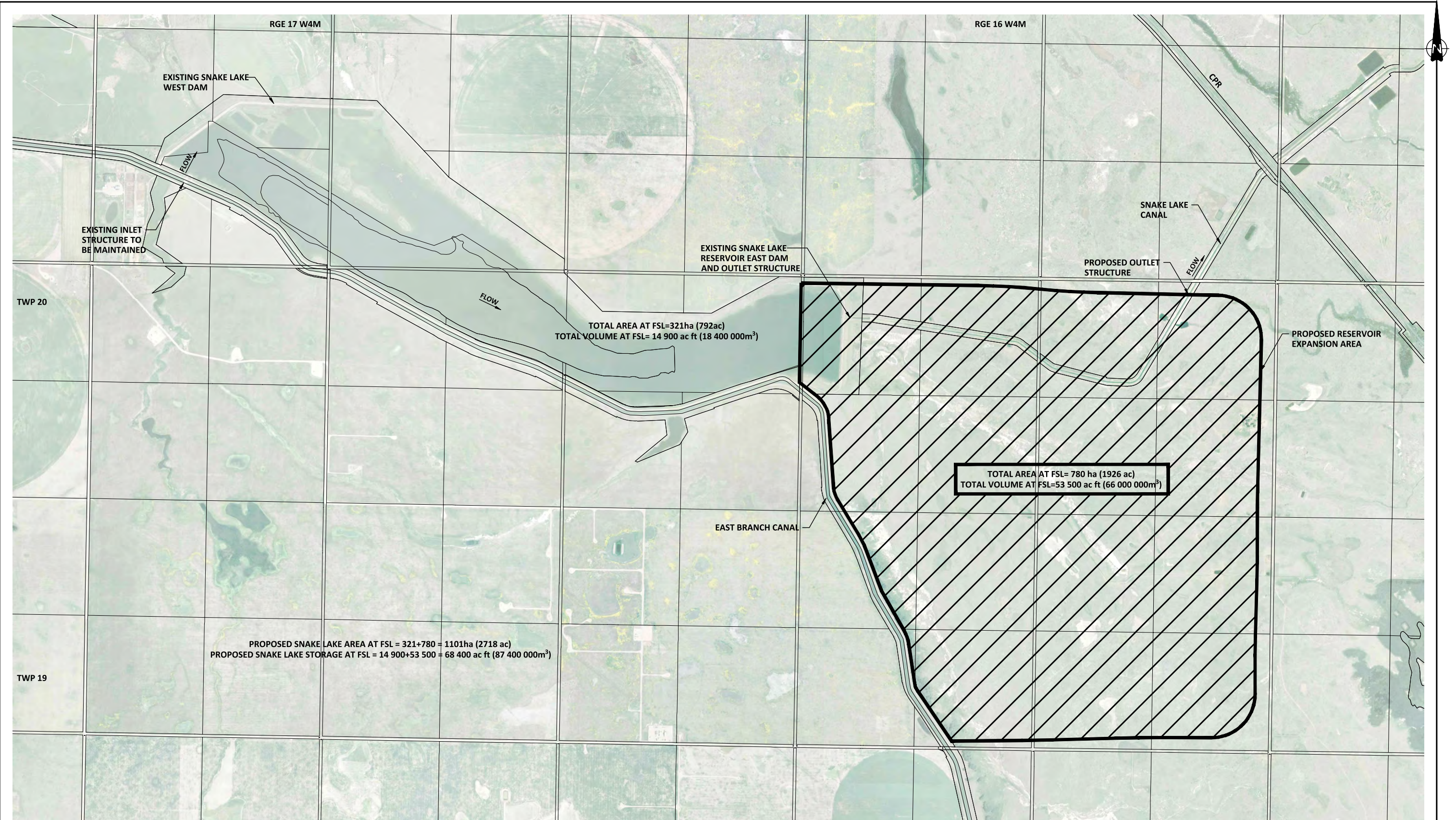


EASTERN IRRIGATION

Snake Lake Reservoir Expansion Project Plan

SCALE: 1:100 000	DATE: MAY 2022	JOB: 1560-193-00	FIGURE: 1.2
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EASTERN IRRIGATION

SNAKE LAKE RESERVOIR EXPANSION  
SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1:25 000

DATE: MAY 2022

JOB: 1560-193-00

FIGURE: 1.3



**Devon Van Dasselaar**

---

**From:** Microsoft Outlook  
<MicrosoftExchange329e71ec88ae4615bbc36ab6ce41109e@mpe.ca>  
**To:** richards@siksikanation.com; Cedric Solway; tommh@siksikanation.com  
**Sent:** Monday, October 23, 2023 1:50 PM  
**Subject:** Relayed: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project [Filed 23 Oct 2023 13:56]

**Delivery to these recipients or groups is complete, but no delivery notification was sent by the destination server:**

[richards@siksikanation.com](mailto:richards@siksikanation.com) ([richards@siksikanation.com](mailto:richards@siksikanation.com))

[Cedric Solway \(CedricS@siksikanation.com\)](mailto:CedricS@siksikanation.com)

[tommh@siksikanation.com](mailto:tommh@siksikanation.com) ([tommh@siksikanation.com](mailto:tommh@siksikanation.com))

Subject: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project

## Devon Van Dasselaar

---

**From:** Microsoft Outlook  
<MicrosoftExchange329e71ec88ae4615bbc36ab6ce41109e@mpe.ca>  
**To:** Kevin Whittmire  
**Sent:** Monday, October 23, 2023 1:50 PM  
**Subject:** Delivered: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project [Filed 23 Oct 2023 13:56]

**Your message has been delivered to the following recipients:**

[Kevin Whittmire \(kwhittmire@mpe.ca\)](mailto:kwhittmire@mpe.ca)

Subject: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project

**Devon Van Dasselaar**

---

**From:** Microsoft Outlook  
<MicrosoftExchange329e71ec88ae4615bbc36ab6ce41109e@mpe.ca>  
**To:** Ryan Gagley (ryan.gagley@eid.ca)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 23, 2023 1:50 PM  
**Subject:** Relayed: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project [Filed 23 Oct 2023 13:56]

**Delivery to these recipients or groups is complete, but no delivery notification was sent by the destination server:**

[Ryan Gagley \(ryan.gagley@eid.ca\)](mailto:ryan.gagley@eid.ca) ([ryan.gagley@eid.ca](mailto:ryan.gagley@eid.ca))

Subject: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project



## Devon Van Dasselaar

---

**From:** Ryan Gagley <ryan.gagley@eid.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 23, 2023 1:54 PM  
**To:** Devon Van Dasselaar  
**Subject:** Read: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project [Filed 23 Oct 2023 13:54]  
**Attachments:** Read: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project

**Categories:** Filed by Mail Manager, EID Snake Lake

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

## Devon Van Dasselaar

---

**From:** Tom Many Heads <tommh@siksikanation.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 23, 2023 1:55 PM  
**To:** Devon Van Dasselaar  
**Subject:** Read: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project [Filed 23 Oct 2023 13:55]  
**Attachments:** Read: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project

**Categories:** Filed by Mail Manager, EID Snake Lake

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

## Devon Van Dasselaar

---

**From:** Richard Sparvier <RichardS@siksikanation.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 23, 2023 2:43 PM  
**To:** Devon Van Dasselaar  
**Subject:** Read: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project [Filed 23 Oct 2023 14:43]  
**Attachments:** Read: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project

**Categories:** Filed by Mail Manager, EID Snake Lake

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

## Devon Van Dasselaar

---

**From:** Devon Van Dasselaar  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 10:24 AM  
**To:** richards@siksikanation.com; Cedric Solway; tommh@siksikanation.com  
**Cc:** Kevin Whittmire; Ryan Gagley (ryan.gagley@eid.ca)  
**Subject:** RE: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project [Filed 15 Nov 2023 10:24]  
**Attachments:** L08 Snake Lake Notification Siksika Nation.pdf

**Categories:** Filed by Mail Manager

Good Morning all,

I am following up to the email below regarding the Snake Lake project. Have you had a chance to consider the letter attached?

We look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Thank you ,

Devon Van Dasselaar

---

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**Sent:** Monday, October 23, 2023 1:50 PM  
**To:** richards@siksikanation.com; Cedric Solway <CedricS@siksikanation.com>; tommh@siksikanation.com  
**Cc:** Kevin Whittmire <kwhittmire@mpe.ca>; Ryan Gagley (ryan.gagley@eid.ca) <ryan.gagley@eid.ca>  
**Subject:** Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project [Filed 23 Oct 2023 13:50]

Please find attached a letter and information package for the Eastern Irrigation Districts Snake Lake Project.

We look forward to hearing your response. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

*Devon Van Dasselaar, P.Tech.(Eng.)*  
Civil Engineering Technologist  
Tel. (403) 317-3612  
Email. [dvandasselaar@mpe.ca](mailto:dvandasselaar@mpe.ca)  
[www.mpe.ca](http://www.mpe.ca)



Siksika Nation  
PO Box 1314  
Siksika, Alberta  
T0J 3W0

October 23, 2023  
File: N:\15\60\193\L08

**Attention: Richard Sparvier  
Tribal Manager**

Dear Richard Sparvier:

**Re: Eastern Irrigation District - Snake Lake Reservoir Expansion**

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Yours truly,

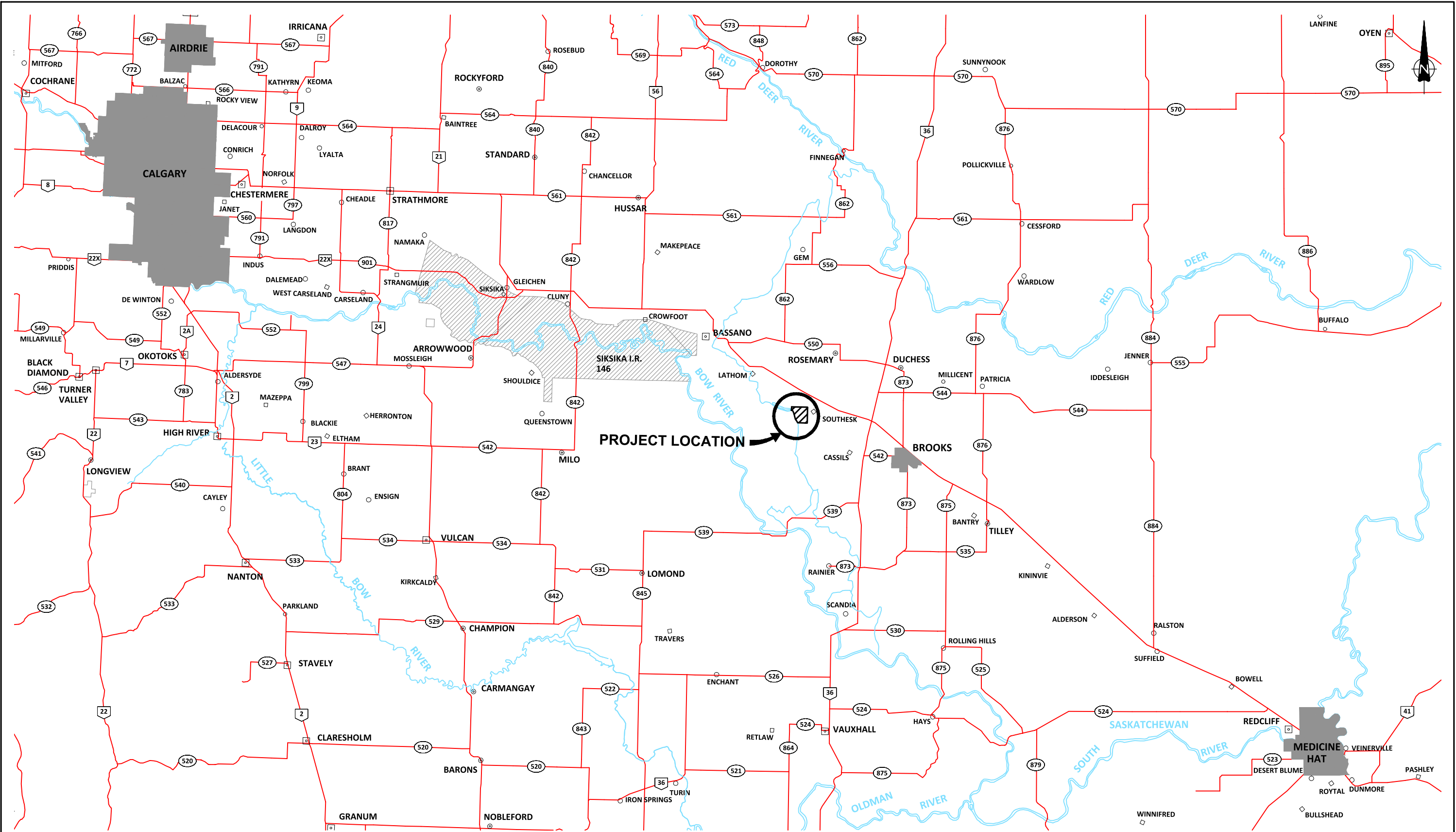
**MPE a division of Englobe**



Devon Van Dasselaar, P.Tech.(Eng.)  
Engineering Technologist.

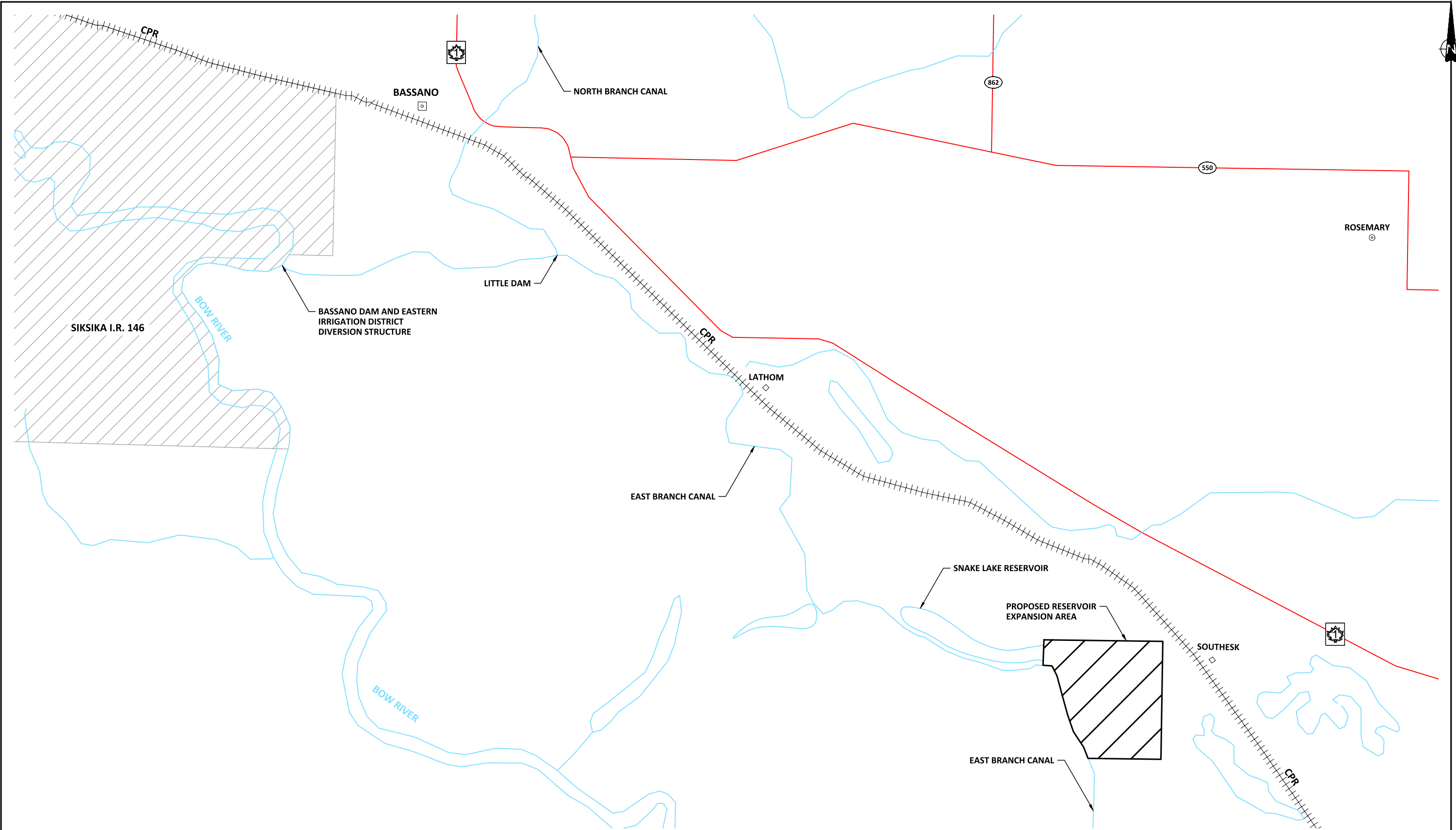
DV:mw  
Enclosure

cc: Cedric Solway, Consultation Coordinator  
Thomas Many Heads, Director of Government and Industry Relations



**EASTERN IRRIGATION**  
**SNAKE LAKE RESERVOIR EXPANSION**  
**LOCATION PLAN**

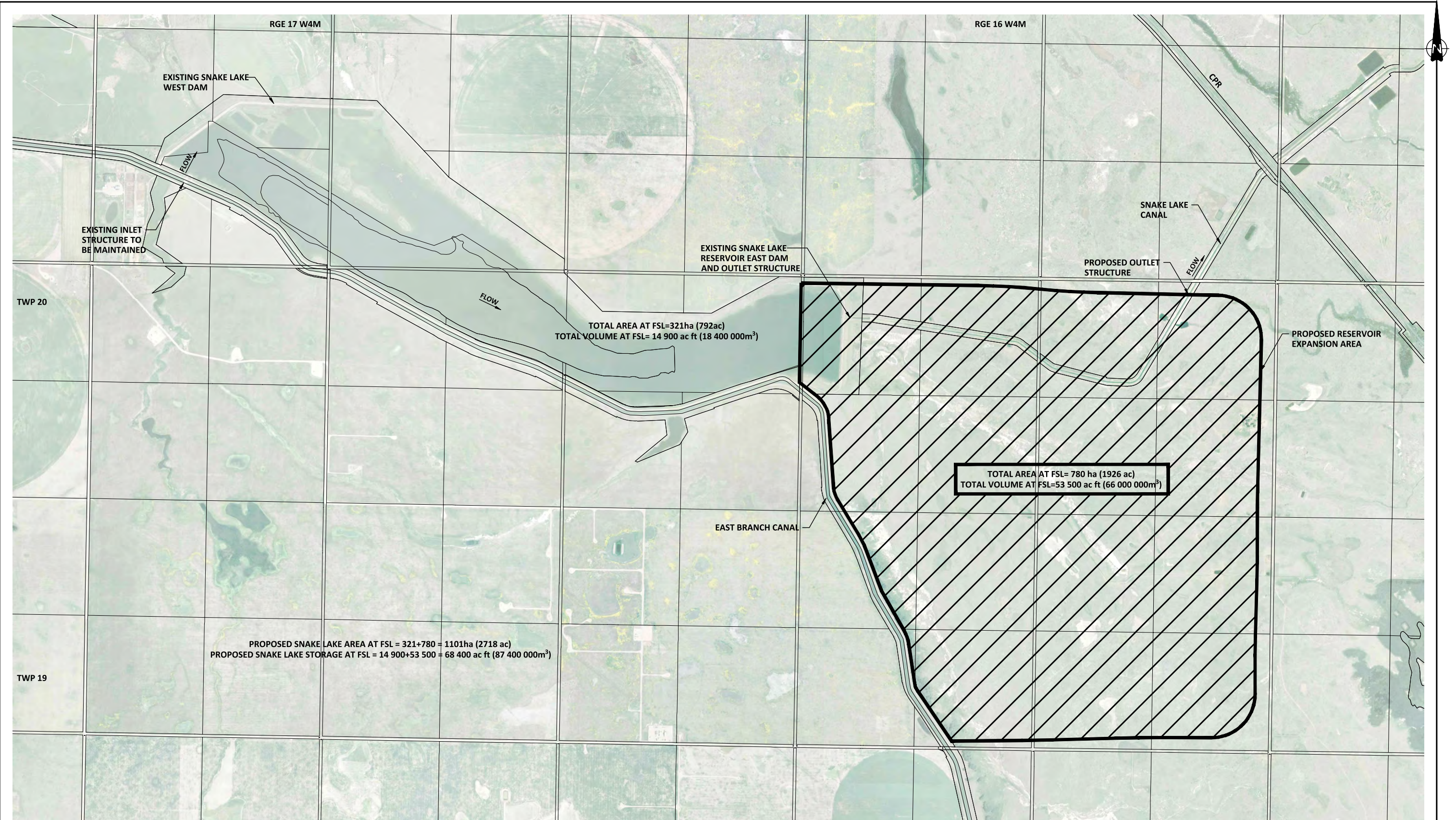
SCALE: 1:750 000	DATE: MAY 2022	JOB: 1560-193-00	FIGURE: 1.1
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**EASTERN IRRIGATION**  
**SNAKE LAKE RESERVOIR EXPANSION**  
**PROJECT PLAN**

SCALE: 1:100 000	DATE: MAY 2022	JOB: 1560-193-00	FIGURE: 1.2
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EASTERN IRRIGATION

SNAKE LAKE RESERVOIR EXPANSION  
SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1:25 000

DATE: MAY 2022

JOB: 1560-193-00

FIGURE: 1.3



**Devon Van Dasselaar**

---

**From:** Microsoft Outlook  
<MicrosoftExchange329e71ec88ae4615bbc36ab6ce41109e@mpe.ca>  
**To:** richards@siksikanation.com; Cedric Solway; tommh@siksikanation.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 10:25 AM  
**Subject:** Relayed: RE: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project

**Delivery to these recipients or groups is complete, but no delivery notification was sent by the destination server:**

[richards@siksikanation.com](mailto:richards@siksikanation.com) ([richards@siksikanation.com](mailto:richards@siksikanation.com))

[Cedric Solway \(CedricS@siksikanation.com\)](mailto:CedricS@siksikanation.com)

[tommh@siksikanation.com](mailto:tommh@siksikanation.com) ([tommh@siksikanation.com](mailto:tommh@siksikanation.com))

Subject: RE: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project

**Devon Van Dasselaar**

---

**From:** Microsoft Outlook  
<MicrosoftExchange329e71ec88ae4615bbc36ab6ce41109e@mpe.ca>  
**To:** Ryan Gagley (ryan.gagley@eid.ca)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 10:25 AM  
**Subject:** Relayed: RE: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project

**Delivery to these recipients or groups is complete, but no delivery notification was sent by the destination server:**

[Ryan Gagley \(ryan.gagley@eid.ca\)](mailto:ryan.gagley@eid.ca) ([ryan.gagley@eid.ca](mailto:ryan.gagley@eid.ca))

Subject: RE: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project

**Devon Van Dasselaar**

---

**From:** Microsoft Outlook  
<MicrosoftExchange329e71ec88ae4615bbc36ab6ce41109e@mpe.ca>  
**To:** Kevin Whittmire  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 10:24 AM  
**Subject:** Delivered: RE: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project

**Your message has been delivered to the following recipients:**

[Kevin Whittmire \(kwhittmire@mpe.ca\)](mailto:kwhittmire@mpe.ca)

Subject: RE: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project

## Devon Van Dasselaar

---

**From:** Devon Van Dasselaar  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2024 5:02 PM  
**To:** richards@siksikanation.com; Cedric Solway; tommh@siksikanation.com  
**Cc:** Kevin Whittmire; Ryan Gagley (ryan.gagley@eid.ca)  
**Subject:** RE: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project [Filed 12 Feb 2024 17:02]  
**Attachments:** L08 Snake Lake Notification Siksika Nation.pdf

**Categories:** Filed by Mail Manager

Tracking:	Recipient	Delivery	Read
	richards@siksikanation.com		
	Cedric Solway		
	tommh@siksikanation.com		
	Kevin Whittmire	Delivered: 2/12/2024 5:03 PM	Read: 2/12/2024 5:04 PM
	Ryan Gagley (ryan.gagley@eid.ca)		

Good Afternoon all,

I am following up to the email below regarding the Snake Lake project. Have you had a chance to consider the letter attached?

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Thank you ,

Devon Van Dasselaar

---

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**To:** richards@siksikanation.com; Cedric Solway <CedricS@siksikanation.com>; tommh@siksikanation.com  
**Cc:** Kevin Whittmire <kwhittmire@mpe.ca>; Ryan Gagley (ryan.gagley@eid.ca) <ryan.gagley@eid.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project [Filed 15 Nov 2023 10:24]

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Thank you ,

Devon Van Dasselaar

---

**From:** Devon Van Dasselaar  
**Sent:** Monday, October 23, 2023 1:50 PM  
**To:** [richards@siksikanation.com](mailto:richards@siksikanation.com); Cedric Solway <[CedricS@siksikanation.com](mailto:CedricS@siksikanation.com)>; [tommh@siksikanation.com](mailto:tommh@siksikanation.com)

**Cc:** Kevin Whittmire <[kwhittmire@mpe.ca](mailto:kwhittmire@mpe.ca)>; Ryan Gagley ([ryan.gagley@eid.ca](mailto:ryan.gagley@eid.ca)) <[ryan.gagley@eid.ca](mailto:ryan.gagley@eid.ca)>

**Subject:** Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project [Filed 23 Oct 2023 13:50]

Please find attached a letter and information package for the Eastern Irrigation Districts Snake Lake Project.

We look forward to hearing your response. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

*Devon Van Dassel*, P.Tech. (Eng.)  
Civil Engineering Technologist  
Tel. (403) 317-3612  
Email. [dvandasselaar@mpe.ca](mailto:dvandasselaar@mpe.ca)  
[www.mpe.ca](http://www.mpe.ca)



Siksika Nation  
PO Box 1314  
Siksika, Alberta  
T0J 3W0

October 23, 2023  
File: N:\15\60\193\L08

**Attention: Richard Sparvier  
Tribal Manager**

Dear Richard Sparvier:

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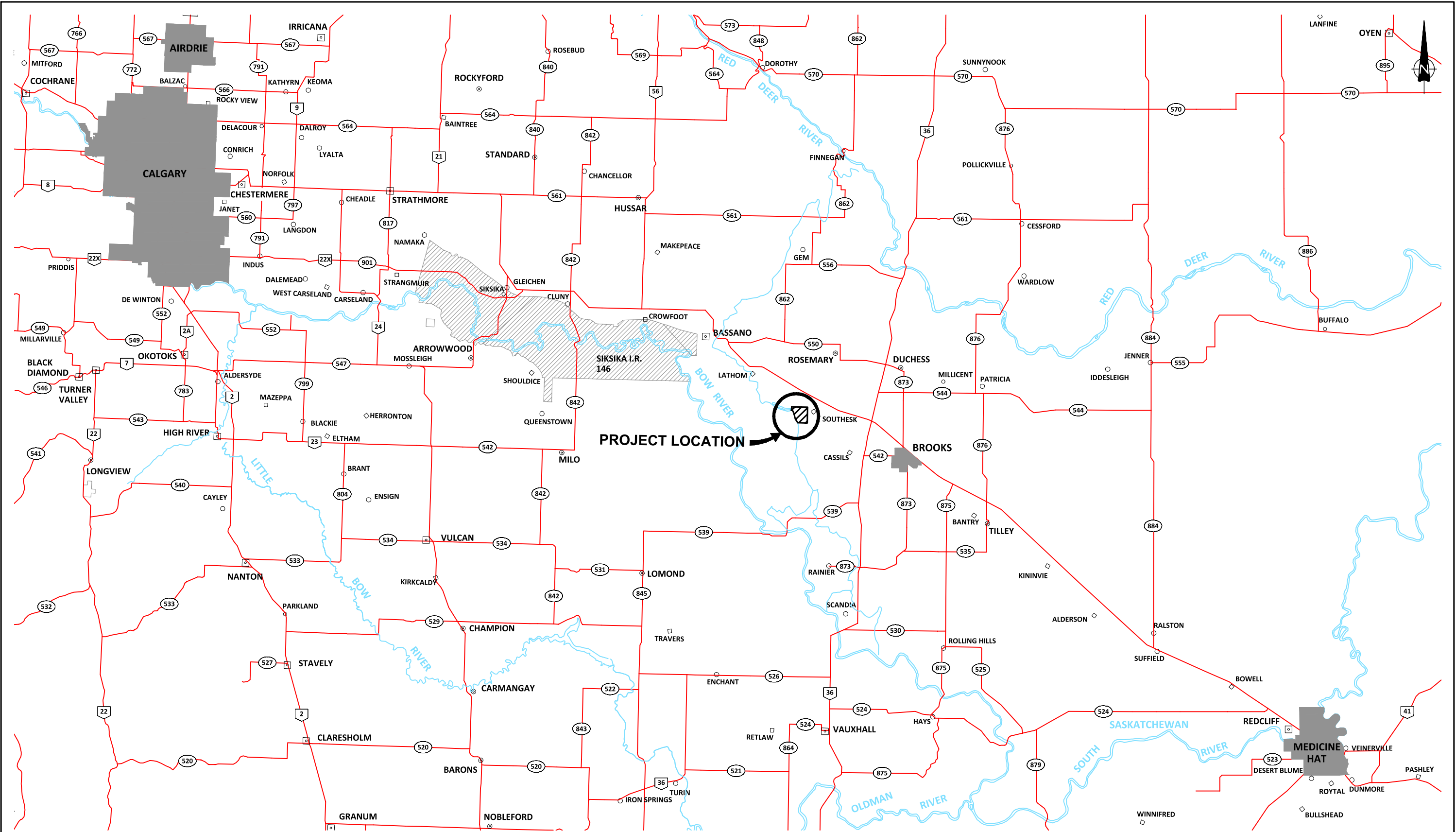


Devon Van Dasselaar, P.Tech.(Eng.)  
Engineering Technologist.

DV:mw  
Enclosure

cc: Cedric Solway, Consultation Coordinator  
Thomas Many Heads, Director of Government and Industry Relations





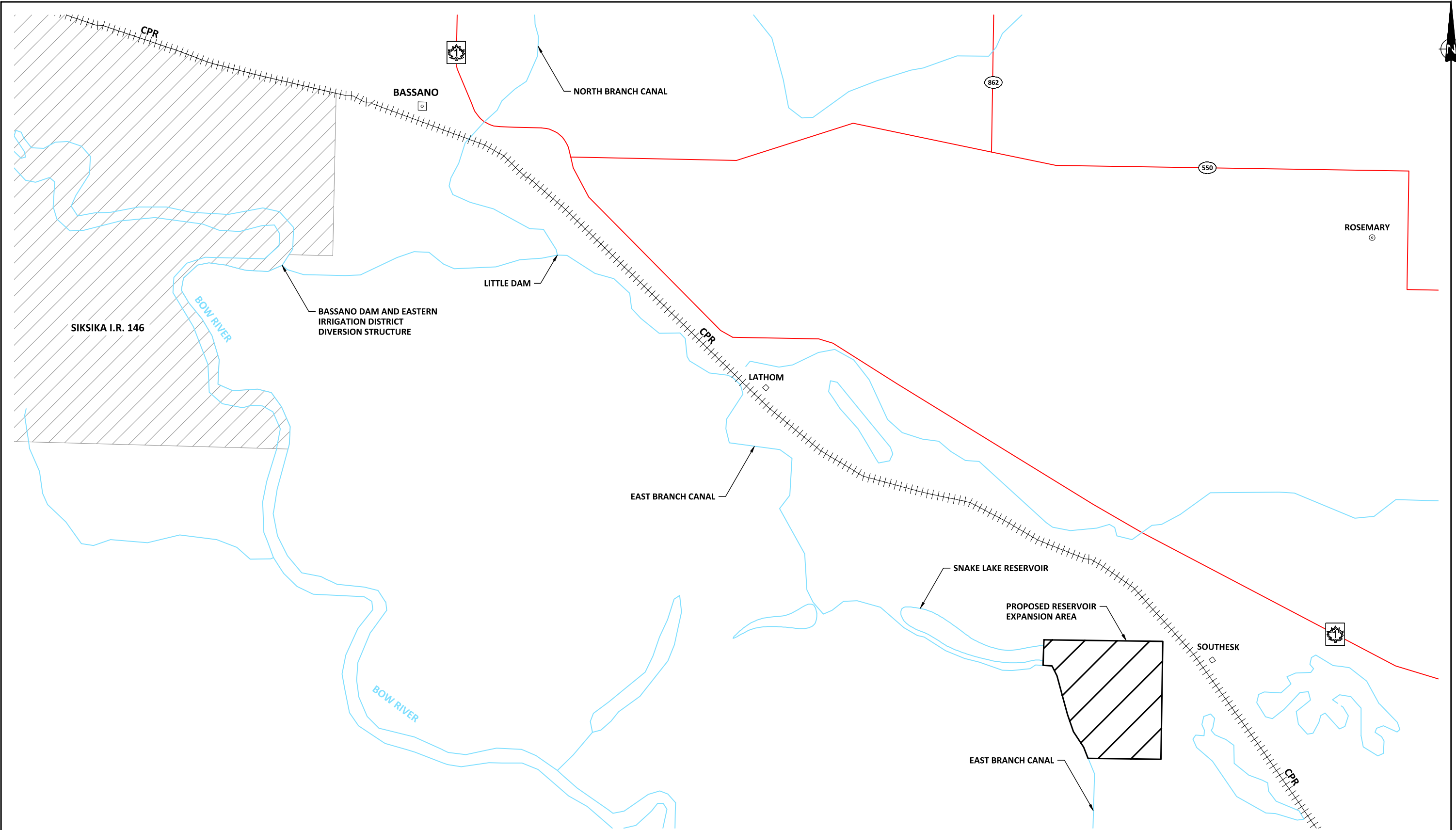
**EASTERN IRRIGATION**  
**SNAKE LAKE RESERVOIR EXPANSION**  
**LOCATION PLAN**

SCALE: 1:750 000

DATE: MAY 2022

JOB: 1560-193-00

FIGURE: 1.1

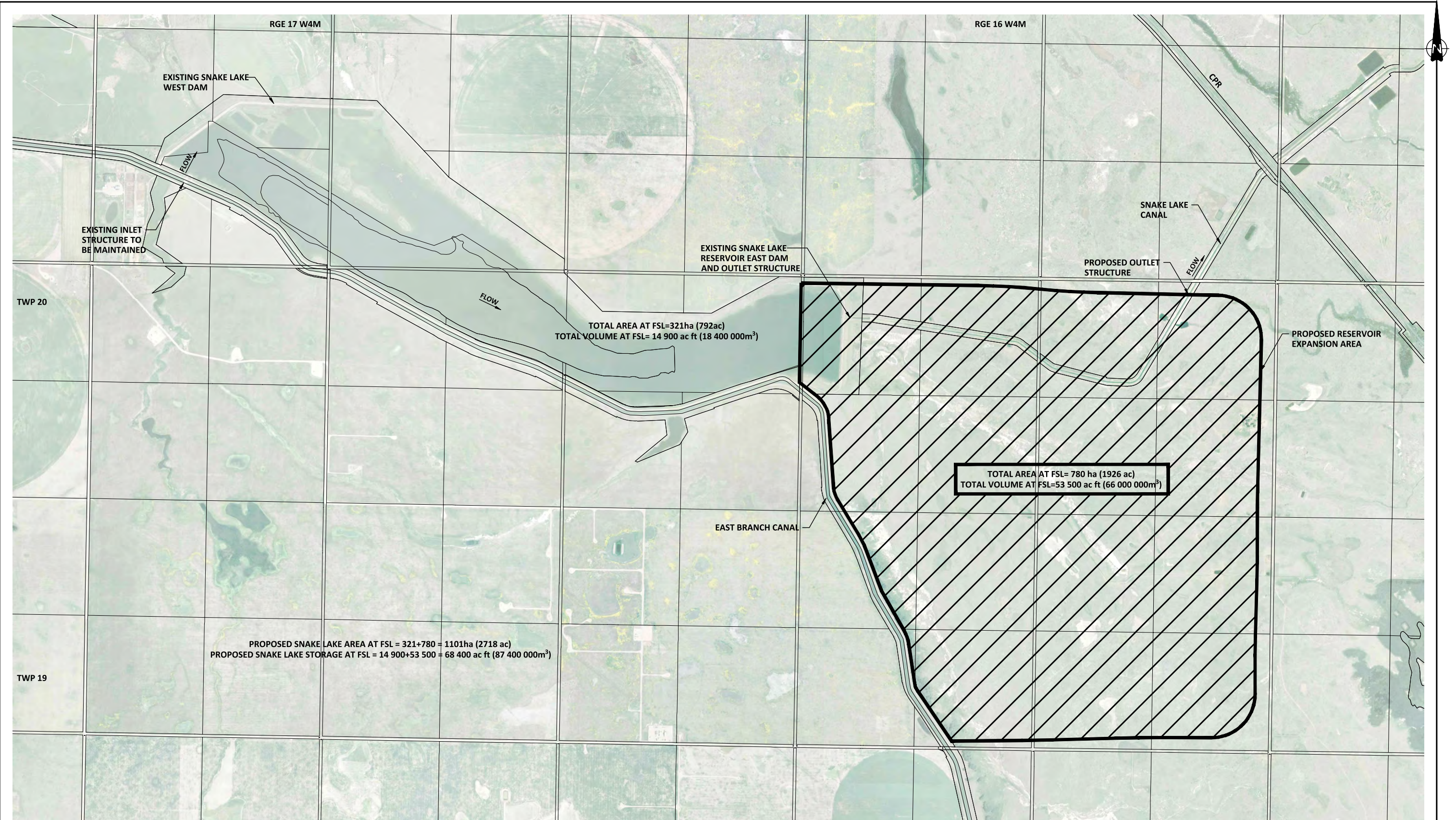


EASTERN IRRIGATION

Snake Lake Reservoir Expansion Project Plan

SCALE: 1:100 000	DATE: MAY 2022	JOB: 1560-193-00	FIGURE: 1.2
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EASTERN IRRIGATION

SNAKE LAKE RESERVOIR EXPANSION  
SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1:25 000

DATE: MAY 2022

JOB: 1560-193-00

FIGURE: 1.3



## Devon Van Dasselaar

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**From:** Microsoft Outlook  
<MicrosoftExchange329e71ec88ae4615bbc36ab6ce41109e@mpe.ca>  
**To:** richards@siksikanation.com; Cedric Solway; tommh@siksikanation.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2024 5:04 PM  
**Subject:** Relayed: RE: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project

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[richards@siksikanation.com](mailto:richards@siksikanation.com) ([richards@siksikanation.com](mailto:richards@siksikanation.com))

[Cedric Solway \(CedricS@siksikanation.com\)](mailto:CedricS@siksikanation.com)

[tommh@siksikanation.com](mailto:tommh@siksikanation.com) ([tommh@siksikanation.com](mailto:tommh@siksikanation.com))

Subject: RE: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project

**Devon Van Dasselaar**

---

**From:** Microsoft Outlook  
<MicrosoftExchange329e71ec88ae4615bbc36ab6ce41109e@mpe.ca>  
**To:** Ryan Gagley (ryan.gagley@eid.ca)  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2024 5:03 PM  
**Subject:** Relayed: RE: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project

**Delivery to these recipients or groups is complete, but no delivery notification was sent by the destination server:**

[Ryan Gagley \(ryan.gagley@eid.ca\)](mailto:ryan.gagley@eid.ca) ([ryan.gagley@eid.ca](mailto:ryan.gagley@eid.ca))

Subject: RE: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project

**Devon Van Dasselaar**

---

**From:** Microsoft Outlook  
<MicrosoftExchange329e71ec88ae4615bbc36ab6ce41109e@mpe.ca>  
**To:** Kevin Whittmire  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2024 5:03 PM  
**Subject:** Delivered: RE: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project

**Your message has been delivered to the following recipients:**

[Kevin Whittmire \(kwhittmire@mpe.ca\)](mailto:kwhittmire@mpe.ca)

Subject: RE: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project

## Devon Van Dasselaar

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**From:** Cedric Solway - Siksika Nation <cedrics@siksikanation.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2024 8:44 AM  
**To:** Devon Van Dasselaar  
**Subject:** Read: RE: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project [Filed 13 Feb 2024 08:51]  
**Attachments:** Read: RE: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project  
  
**Categories:** Filed by Mail Manager

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

## Devon Van Dasselaar

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**From:** Richard Sparvier <RichardS@siksikanation.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 26, 2024 1:15 PM  
**To:** Devon Van Dasselaar  
**Subject:** Read: RE: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project  
**Attachments:** Read: RE: Eastern Irrigation District Snake Lake Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.