



*building communities together*

## **2024 Business Plan Pine Valley Sewer (1772)**

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***Working in partnership with communities large and small to offer local, sub-regional, and regional services to ensure that the Cariboo Chilcotin is a socially, economically, and environmentally desirable region.***

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### **Department Services**

- The Cariboo Regional District (CRD) owns and operates the Pine Valley Community Sewer System.

### **Background Information**

- The Pine Valley Sewer function was established in 1979 and now services approximately 70 land parcels.
- The system is comprised of two sewage lagoons, a mechanical pre-treatment plant, one lift station and associated sewer piping.
- In 2007, \$280,000 in capital improvements for a new lift station and refurbished treatment plant were completed. In 2015, a backup power generator was added at a cost of \$75,000.
- Regular inspection and maintenance to system components is undertaken to ensure continuous operations.

### **Operations**

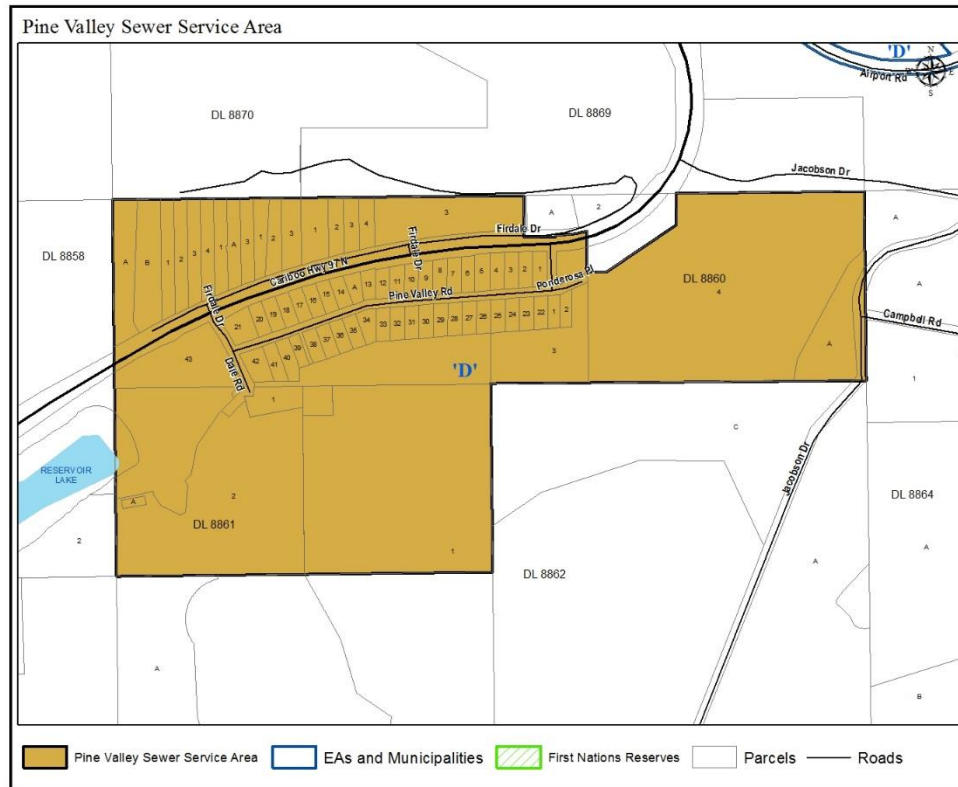
Function authority is provided by the Pine Valley Specified Area Sewer Management Bylaw No. 1806 & 4418.

Bylaw 5366 authorizes the CRD to cover the costs of the service by way of taxation of assessed property, parcel tax and user fees.

No parcel tax is currently being collected for this location.

The current residential user fee is \$485/year and has been increased to \$582 for 2022 to match the growing needs of this service.

As Electoral Area D is the only stakeholder, and the *Local Government Act* requires more than one vote, the entire Board is responsible for the governance of this service.



### Significant Issues & Trends

Aging infrastructure is becoming more challenging and significant repairs and upgrades are required. The sludge chamber walls are deteriorating, and an assessment is needed to determine the best course of action to repair/replace the chamber. Electrical upgrades are needed in the high lift pump station to meet today's standards.

The Public Sector Accounting Board requires local governments to report and record tangible capital assets. At some time in the future local governments may be required to amortize these assets over their useful life.

The Cariboo Regional District is a signatory on the Clean BC Climate Action Plan (formerly the Province of BC/UBCM Climate Action Charter) and has committed to continuing work towards carbon neutrality in respect of corporate operations.

## Business Plan Goals, Rationale & Strategies

- 1. Goal:** Re-evaluation of the fees and charges to the City of Williams Lake.  
**Rationale:** The CRD currently has a service agreement with the City of Williams Lake that defines charges for use of the Pine Valley Sewer System to service the Williams Lake Airport. Increased development (Fire Centre) and passenger numbers has resulted in significant flows to the sewer system. The terms and conditions of the agreement should be reviewed to ensure fees and charges are adequate.  
**Strategy:** Determine flow contributions from the Williams Lake Airport and adjust charges accordingly through consultation with City of Williams Lake staff.
- 2. Goal:** Sewer Capacity Assessment.  
**Rationale:** The Pine valley sewer system currently collects and treats sewage from the approximately 70 homes and the Williams Lake Airport area. The system is now over 40 years old and a capacity and condition assessment of the collection system should be completed. An assessment will provide information as to whether the system can adequately handle any future development in the subdivision and/or at the Williams Lake Airport.  
**Strategy:** Issue a Request for Proposals to conduct a Sewer Capacity and Condition Assessment.
- 3. Goal:** Repair/replace failing sludge separator chamber at the treatment plant.  
**Rationale:** In October 2021 it was observed that one of the walls of the treatment plant chamber was failing. To ensure continued operation of the plant the chamber wall needs to be repaired and/or replaced. Prior to repairs commission an engineering assessment to determine repair methods.  
**Strategy:** Tender contract for chamber repair.
- 4. Goal:** Complete SCADA upgrade.  
**Rationale:** Improve work productivity and communications.  
**Strategy:** Tender contract upgrading SCADA.
- 5. Goal:** Rebuild additional high lift station pump  
**Rationale:** The Pine Valley sewer system relies on two functioning high lift station pumps to pump treated effluent to the storage lagoons. It is recommended to purchase a new pump be installed to replace the oldest pump currently in service. The older pump can then be serviced and kept on hand as a spare in case of future pump failure.  
**Strategy:** Rebuild high lift station pump.

**Overall Financial Impact**

The projected capital reserve as of December 2024 is \$23,738. No parcel tax is currently being collected for this location.

The current residential user fee is \$561/year and may increase in 2024 to match the growing needs of this service and inflation.