



building communities together

2025 Business Plan Red Bluff Sewer (1775)

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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.

Department Services

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

Background Information

- The Red Bluff Sewer System was established in 1982 and services approximately 2,230 land parcels, including a portion within the City of Quesnel boundaries.
- The system collects sewage through the provision of numerous lift stations, 64.8 kilometres of sewer piping and a pre-treatment plant. Once collected, the sewage is discharged to sewage treatment lagoons owned and operated by Cariboo Pulp. Treatment of the sewage by Cariboo Pulp occurs under a long-term contractual arrangement.



Cariboo Pulp and Paper Lagoons

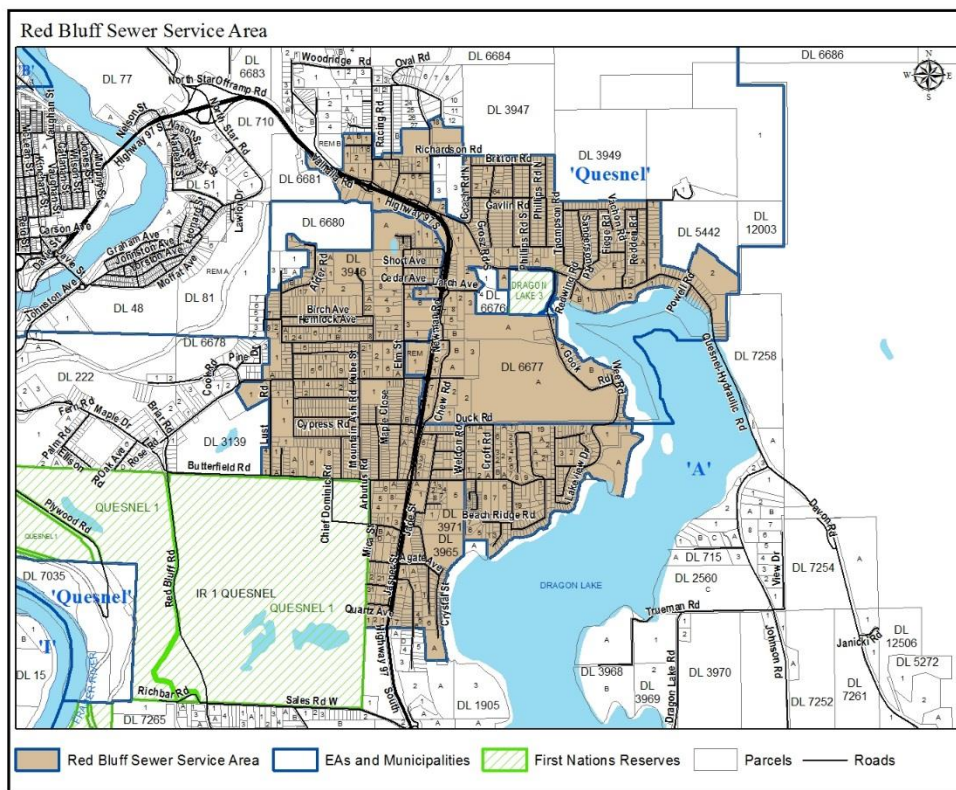
Operations

Establishment Bylaws 4935 and 5368 authorize the CRD to cover the costs of the service by way of taxation of assessed property, parcel tax and user fees. No limit has been set on the level for taxation by assessment.

No parcel tax is currently being collected for this location.



As Electoral Area A 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

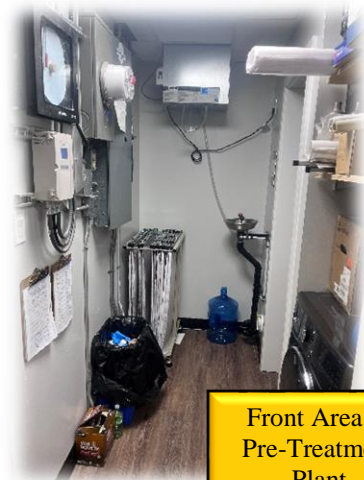
The recent hydraulic capacity assessment of the Red Bluff Sewer System indicates that it has ample capacity to accommodate all potential developments permitted under the

current zoning regulations. However, with the recent approval of carriage houses in the Cariboo Regional District (CRD) and the City of Quesnel, it is essential to evaluate the impact of these additional flows on the system as well.

To comply with legislative requirements, ten lift stations will need to be equipped with above-ground valve chambers; construction on one of these lift stations is scheduled to commence, although delays have occurred due to the contractor's current workload. Additionally, the Public Sector Accounting Board has introduced new reporting requirements for local governments regarding tangible capital assets, with potential future mandates for amortization over their useful life. We are currently undertaking an asset management gap analysis to address these obligations and enhance our practices in this area.

Business Plan Goals, Objectives & Strategies

- 1. Goal:** Lift station submersible pump replacement/rebuilding.
Rationale: The lift station pumps have not been assessed for wear or lifespan in many years. A thorough inspection will most likely expose that some of them are nearing end of life or require motor rewinding or impeller replacement.
Strategy: Get ahead of the curve by maintaining and servicing motors pre-emptively instead of the current reactionary repairs (after a failure).
- 2. Goal:** Improved Operator retention and system maintenance.
Rationale: Increase staff by one position so that Operators can take time off for training and/or vacations without putting undue stress on other Operators. This will also allow for more thorough maintenance of the system.
Strategy: Create a position for an OIT (Operator in Training).
- 3. Goal:** Increased storage and workspace at the pre-treatment plant.
Rationale: Currently the storage area outside of the mechanical room is full of paperwork, tools, and consumables from floor to ceiling. Increasing this area would allow Operators to work more efficiently and safely.
Strategy: Obtain engineered drawings for expanding this space, along with cost estimates.
- 4. Goal:** Mainline infiltration mitigation.
Rationale: Begin establishing a strategy for a replacement and relining program for mainlines. If started this will negate future costs due to failure as well as repair potential elevation and infiltration issues. Switch from reactive to proactive maintenance.



Front Area of Pre-Treatment Plant

Strategy: Choose the mainline deemed to be the best candidate for replacement using pre-existing CCTV inspection footage and Operator knowledge. Initiate replacement feasibility and or engineered drawings with cost estimates. Repeat and replace annually as budget allows.

5. **Goal:** Increased effluent storage to lower probability of a sewer overflow into the environment.

Rationale: Currently, two lift stations are of concern in the event of a pump failure. The underground fiberglass holding tanks fill up within minutes during peak flow. The installation of a secondary equalization tank would give Operators more time to react to a potential mechanical issue and lessen the chances of overflow into a water body.

Strategy: Obtain cost estimates and drawings for the installation of an equalization tank for lift station 6-1 and/or 3-3.



Overall Long-Term Goal for the Red Bluff Sewer System

The primary objective for the Red Bluff Sewer System is to transition from a reactive maintenance approach to a proactive model focused on ongoing maintenance and timely replacement. This strategic shift will ensure the long-term viability of the system while minimizing future expenses. Although short-term costs may rise to facilitate essential upgrades and replace aging infrastructure, this investment will ultimately lead to significant savings and enhanced reliability for our community.

Overall Financial Impact

The projected capital reserve as of December 2024 is \$479,904.

No parcel tax is currently being collected for this location.

The current residential user fee is \$317/year and may increase in 2025 to match the growing needs of this service and inflation.