



# REPORT

To: Rural Budgets Administration Committee

Report Number: ENV-RBAC-098

From: Environmental Services

Date: July 24, 2025

**Subject: Funding Request – Buick Creek Rodeo Grounds Test Well Decommissioning and Romedo Spring Property Disposal**

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## **RECOMMENDATION #1:**

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee approve a funding commitment for the ‘Buick Creek Rodeo Grounds Test Well Decommissioning’ project in the amount of \$50,000, payable from Electoral Area B Peace River Agreement Funds, Spending Item #1 – Potable Water & Water Securities/Studies, to be issued to the Potable Water – Area B Function – 702 for the Buick Creek Rodeo Grounds Test Well Decommissioning.

## **RECOMMENDATION #2:**

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee approve a funding commitment for the ‘Romedo Spring Property Disposal’ project in the amount of \$15,000, payable from Electoral Area B Peace River Agreement Funds, Spending Item #1 – Potable Water & Water Securities/Studies, to be issued to the Potable Water – Area B Function – 702 for legal expenses related to the Romedo Spring Property Disposal.

## **RECOMMENDATION #3:**

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee recommend that the Regional Board amend the 2025 Financial Plan for Function 702 – Area B Water to:

- increase transfer from Peace River Agreement Reserve - \$50,000, and
  - increase Capital Expenditures - \$50,000
- for Buick Creek Rodeo Grounds Test Well Decommissioning.

## **RECOMMENDATION #4:**

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee recommend that the Regional Board amend the 2025 Financial Plan for Function 702 – Area B Water to:

- Increase transfer from Peace River Agreement Reserve - \$15,000, and
  - Increase Operational Expenditures (Legal) - \$15,000.
- for legal expenses related to the Romedo Spring Property Disposal.

## **BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

### **Buick Creek Rodeo Grounds Test Well – Decommissioning**

On May 1, 2025, the Regional Board passed the following resolution:

*MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED,*

*That the Regional Board proceed with decommissioning of the Buick Creek Rodeo Grounds Well Tag Number 113985, Well Identification Plate Number 51591, in Area B, as this well was never fully developed for use as an Area B Bulk Fill Tank Loader location.*

In 2017, as part of exploratory works to identify a water source for a potential bulk water fill station in the Buick Creek area, a test well was drilled at the Buick Creek Rodeo Grounds. The well was never developed for public use as it did not produce an adequate flow rate.

According to the *BC Groundwater Protection Regulation*, any well that has not been in use for five years must be properly decommissioned. The PRRD is currently the recorded well owner and must comply with regulatory requirements to ensure the well is properly closed to prevent groundwater contamination and eliminate potential safety hazards.

The estimated cost of decommissioning is based on recent well closure projects and will include contractor fees, decommissioning materials, and any required permits or legal notifications. Area B grant funding will be required to cover all associated costs.

#### **Romedo Springs Property Disposal– Land and License Return Investigation**

On May 1, 2025, the Regional Board passed the following resolution:

*MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED,*

*That the Regional Board investigate returning the donated land, known as Romedo Springs, back to the landowner, as the water source and water license, C118291 for the purpose of waterworks, has not been utilized since the spring fill station was closed in 2015 due to contamination concerns.*

Romedo Springs, a former public spring fill station closed in 2015 due to E. coli contamination, remains inactive and unmonitored. The site, donated to the PRRD by the Thiessen family in 2012 for park and water supply use, is no longer accessible to the public, and the PRRD holds an unused waterworks license.

In June 2024, adjacent landowners raised concerns about site access, as existing PRRD infrastructure restricts use of a second, active domestic water license. As the PRRD has no current function to support this asset, staff recommend investigating the return of the land and license to the original donors.

Costs would include legal fees for the transfer process. Area B grant funding will be required to cover all associated costs.

#### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee provide further direction.

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

- ☒ Asset and Infrastructure Management

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

As of June 30, 2025, the Area B PRA uncommitted fund balance is \$2,186,000.

**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

None at this time.

**OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

None at this time.

External Link:

1. [Area B Water – Buick Creek Rodeo Grounds and Romedo Spring, ENV – EADC - 042](#) – See Item 8.2 on the Electoral Area Directors Committee Agenda dated April 17, 2025.