# 13.0 Infrastructure Services & Utilities

## 13.1 Introduction

#### **Water Services**

A large majority of the rural communities within the Cariboo Regional District are not serviced by a community water system. The low density of development and the availability of in-ground potable water supplies wards off the need to implement community water systems; thus, most individual parcels have their own private well. Within the South Cariboo OCP area, six communities are serviced by a community water system: 103 Mile, 108 Mile, Forest Grove, Horse Lake (Anderson Subdivision), Canim Lake and Gateway. The boundaries of these community water systems are shown on Schedule 'C': South Cariboo Area Communities and Services.

#### **Water Allocation**

The Province of B.C. adopted new legislation in 2015 to modernize B.C.'s water laws, regulate groundwater use and strengthen provincial water management in light of growing demands for water and a changing climate. The *Water Sustainability Act* came into force on February 29, 2016. This new legislation requires irrigators, industries, waterworks and others who use groundwater for non-domestic purposes to obtain a water licence and pay water fees and rentals. The Act allows people and businesses to drill a new well without a groundwater licence; however, it requires them to obtain a licence before using the water from the well for a non-domestic purpose.

### **Fire Protection**

The South Cariboo OCP area contains three fire protection areas and portions of three others. Three volunteer fire departments are operated by the CRD: 108 Mile, Forest Grove and Lone Butte. Other areas in the South Cariboo OCP area receive fire protection from the District of 100 Mile House, Canim Lake First Nation and Hawkins Lake volunteer firefighters association (independent).

### **Liquid Waste**

The most commonly used method of sewage disposal within the plan area is with a septic tank and drainfield system. This is a subsurface disposal method, utilizing anaerobic bacteria to decompose waste material within the septic tank, and utilizing oxygen and bacteria to further purify this waste material within the drainfield.

### **Solid Waste Disposal**

The Cariboo Regional District developed a Regional Solid Waste Management Plan with an implementation timeline of 2013 - 2022. The goal of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan is to reduce the quantity of solid waste requiring landfill disposal to the greatest extent possible consistent with community resources and the nature of the solid waste stream. Recent initiatives include compacting waste at transfer sites before trucking to reduce landfill hauls and chipping wood waste in a centralized and accessible area to reduce the travel distance to deliver material to the chipper. Broad objectives in the ten year plan include:

- Make recycling accessible to all residents of the Cariboo Regional District
- Gradually increase solid waste diversion to 50% by 2022
- Decrease per capita waste generation to 889Kg/person/year
- Decrease per capita residuals going to landfill to 500Kg/person (current 775Kg/person)
- Decrease residential residual generation rate to 5.70Kg/person/week
- Expand participation of Intuitional/Commercial/Industrial (ICI) Sector in waste diversion programs

# 13.2 Objectives

- 13.2.1 Operate and maintain effective and reliable municipal infrastructure services over the long term.
- 13.2.2 Provide services that meet community needs in a manner consistent within the financial capabilities of the CRD and that minimize long term operational costs.
- 13.2.3 Pursue infrastructure development and servicing methods that minimize the impact on the environment.
- 13.2.4 Maintain water quality and quantity for domestic uses and fire protection where communities are committed to funding, infrastructure costs to provide adequate fire protection for CRD owned utilities.

# 13.3 Policies

The Cariboo Regional District Board will:

- 13.3.1 Direct development to areas that are serviced or where services are planned.
- 13.3.2 Encourage servicing partnerships for construction.

- 13.3.3 Review development and growth needs in terms of overall response times and level of protective services to relevant residential areas.
- 13.3.4 Support crime prevention programs such as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design with the R.C.M.P.
- 13.3.5 Support volunteer efforts in fire protection services, community-based policing, and crime prevention programs.

### **Sewage Disposal**

- 13.3.6 Support adequate sewage disposal for new development in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health through Interior Health and the Ministry of Environment, as applicable.
- 13.3.7 Work with relevant agencies to raise community awareness of the importance of properly maintained sewage disposal systems in order to minimize any negative impact on the environment.

## **Solid Waste Management**

- 13.3.8 Continue to implement the 2010 Solid Waste Management Plan.
- 13.3.9 Collaborate with local groups to educate and encourage residents to practice recycling, reuse, reduction of waste, and composting to minimize the requirements for solid waste disposal sites.
- 13.3.10 Support composter program for residential users to encourage compositing and food recovery initiatives to reduce levels of food waste as well as divert organic materials from landfills.
- 13.3.11 Support initiatives of other levels of government and organization' efforts to reduce waste and implement diversion programs.

### Water Supply

- 13.3.12 Ensure the CRD owned water systems meet or exceed the *Drinking Water Protection*\*\*Act requirements.
- 13.3.13 Encourage all properties with wells or water licenses to meet appropriate Provincial standards.
- 13.3.14 Employ potable water planning best practices throughout rural areas.
- 13.3.15 Upgrade the 103 Mile water system to increase the water quality to residents, improve the efficiency of delivery and extend its service life.

- 13.3.16 Rebuild and enhance the 108 Mile water system including the installation of a second well and a water filtration and treatment plant.
- 13.3.17 Encourage developments with substandard water quality or quantity to upgrade their facilities or undertake a community water system.
- 13.3.18 Support measures to reduce water consumption through public education and other water conservation measures.

### **Telecommunications**

- 13.3.19 Encourage the provision and expansion of telecommunications coverage through infrastructure upgrades within the South Cariboo Area.
- 13.3.20 Encourage utility companies to co-ordinate and share corridors and telecommunication companies to co-locate facilities on cell phone towers, whenever possible.

