



Freedom To Create. Spirit To Achieve.

# Irrigation Technical Conference 2010

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# Irrigation Council and Irrigation Secretariat


- Council is an **Agency** of ARD established under the *Irrigation Districts Act* (section 50)
- Council reports directly to the Minister of ARD
- Council's key functions:
  - Recommendations to the Minister respecting the *Act*
  - *May monitors the operations and financials of the 13 districts*
  - *Must hear appeals, applications and conduct hearings as per the Act*
  - *Approves and grants expenditures under the Irrigation Rehabilitation Program*

# IRRIGATION COUNCIL MISSION

To support the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development by providing relevant **advice** and regulatory administration for irrigation sustainability



# Irrigation Council Membership

- Peter Schuld, Chairman
  - Richard Stamp, Vice Chairman
  - Svend Rasmussen, public member
  - Casey Gouw Jr., public member
  - Vern Hoff (term has expired), public member
  - Brent Paterson, ARD
  - Dave Ardell, ENV
- 
- The bottom right corner of the slide features a decorative graphic of several concentric circles, resembling ripples on water, in a lighter shade of blue.

# Irrigation Council and **Irrigation Secretariat**

- Irrigation **Secretariat** consists of employees of ARD — Roger Hohm and Rebecca Fast
- The Secretariat carries out the duties and functions assigned to it by Council
- The chief officer of the Secretariat:
  - Acts as secretary to Council
  - Liaising with Council, districts, communities etc
  - Advises and prepares recommendations for Council
  - Maintains records and data for Council's use
  - Advises districts on administrative procedures
  - Change of areas for Land Titles

# IRRIGATION COUNCIL'S MANDATE

- Work to increase industries ability to manage risk through IRP and maintenance
- Provide advice on policy, legislation and regulations which help the irrigation industry
- Support industry in meeting CEP targets

# ***Irrigation Rehabilitation Plan A Historical Perspective***



# ARDA Studies

1963 to 1967:

- Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act (ARDA), Irrigation Studies were conducted.
- Study concluded net benefits of irrigation accrued:
  - 11% to the irrigation farmers,
  - 22% to the local area,
  - 32% to the province and
  - 35% to the nation.
- The final version showed the benefits as:
  - 45% to Canada, 41% to Alberta and 14% to the irrigation farmer

# First Irrigation Rehabilitation Program

**1969:**

- Irrigation Capital Works (ICW) Program
- Funding totaled \$583,630
- Sharing was based on 86% provincial, 14% district (irrigation farmer)

\* We have some dollars ...how do we share they?

# Historical Changes to the Formula IRP/ICW portion only

## ➤ 1969 to 1972

- Funding – based on Effective area (Assessment)

## ➤ 1973 to 1976

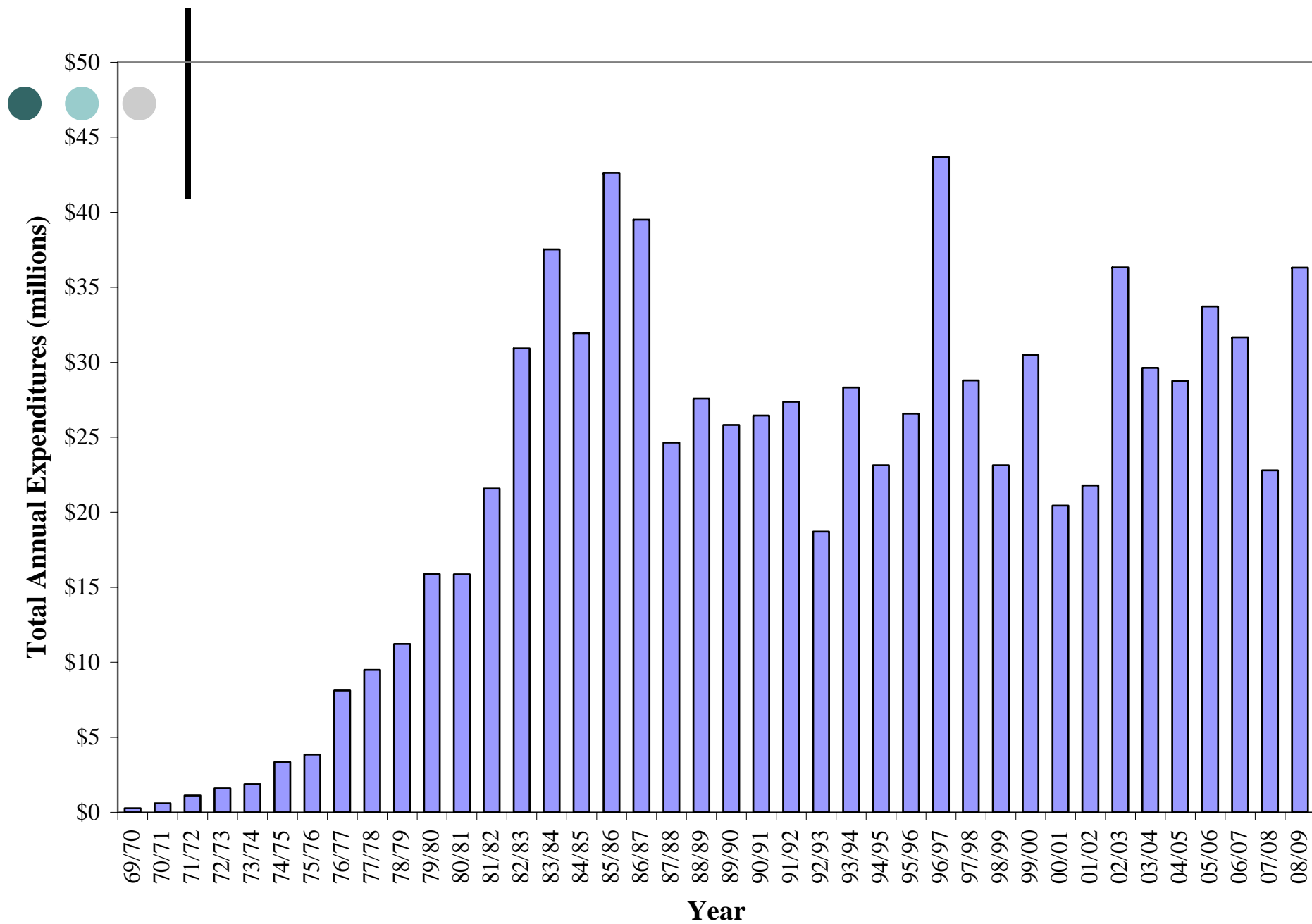
- 100% of funding based on water revenues

## ➤ 1977 to 1991

- Funding – 50% water revenue, 50% on acres

# Historical Changes to the Formula IRP/ICW portion only

- 1992 to 1996
  - 4% off the top to WID, remainder based on acres and level of completion
    - 1995 cost share changed to 80/20
    - 1996 cost share changed to 75/25
- 1997 to 2003
  - 40% assessed acres
  - 40% actually irrigated acres
  - 15% length of canals over 200 cfs
  - 5% un-rehabilitated canals over 200 cfs
- 2003 to 2010
  - 50% irrigation acres
  - 50% Infrastructure replacement cost
- 2011 to ...????





**Capital Investment in Irrigation Infrastructure**  
**Alberta Government & Irrigation Districts (Irrigation Producers)**  
**ICW / IREP / IRP - 1969 - 2009**

*On-Farm Capital Investment*  
*~ \$1 Billion*

**Government Contribution = approx. \$750 Million**

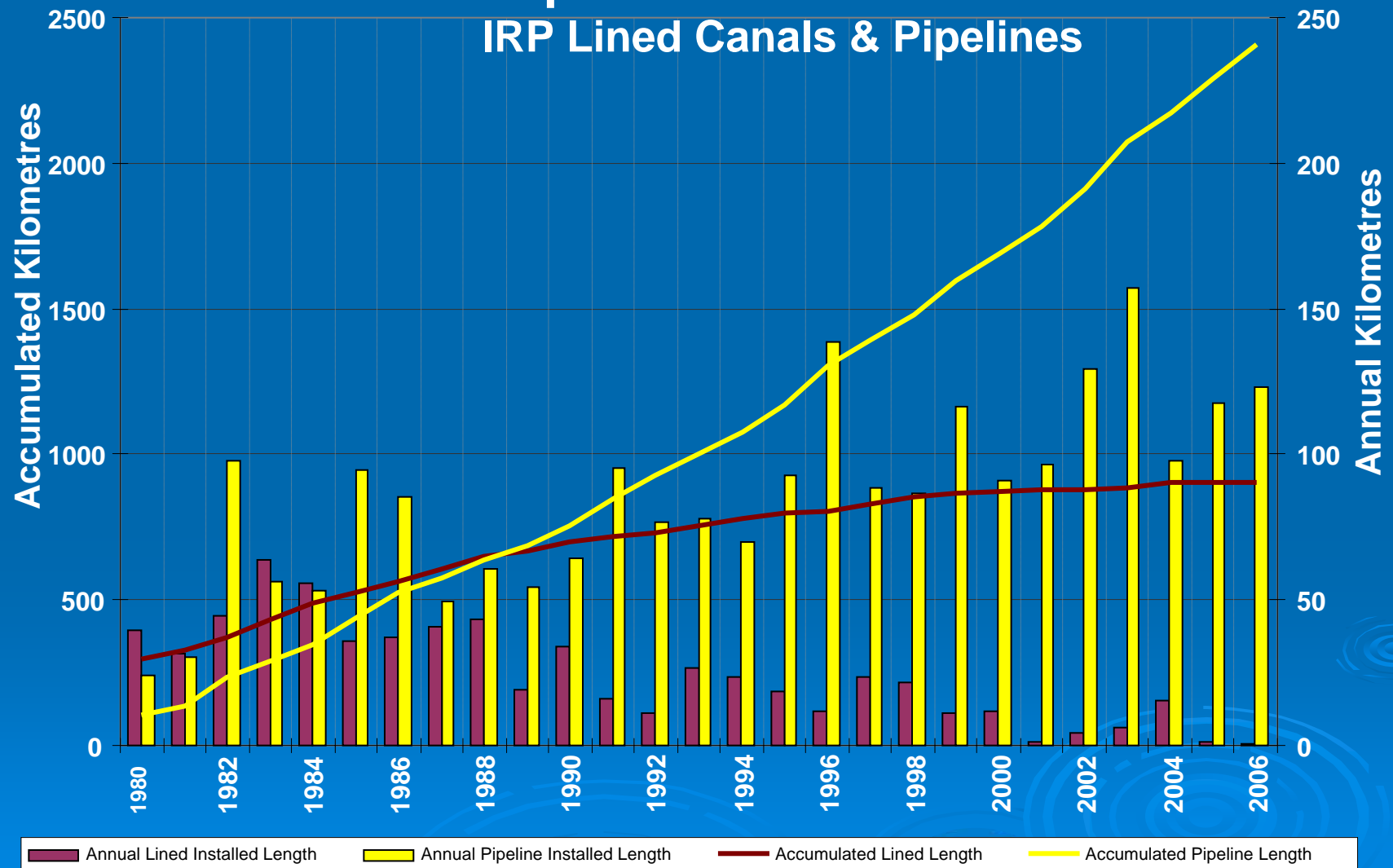
**Irrigation District / Producers = approx. \$175 Million**

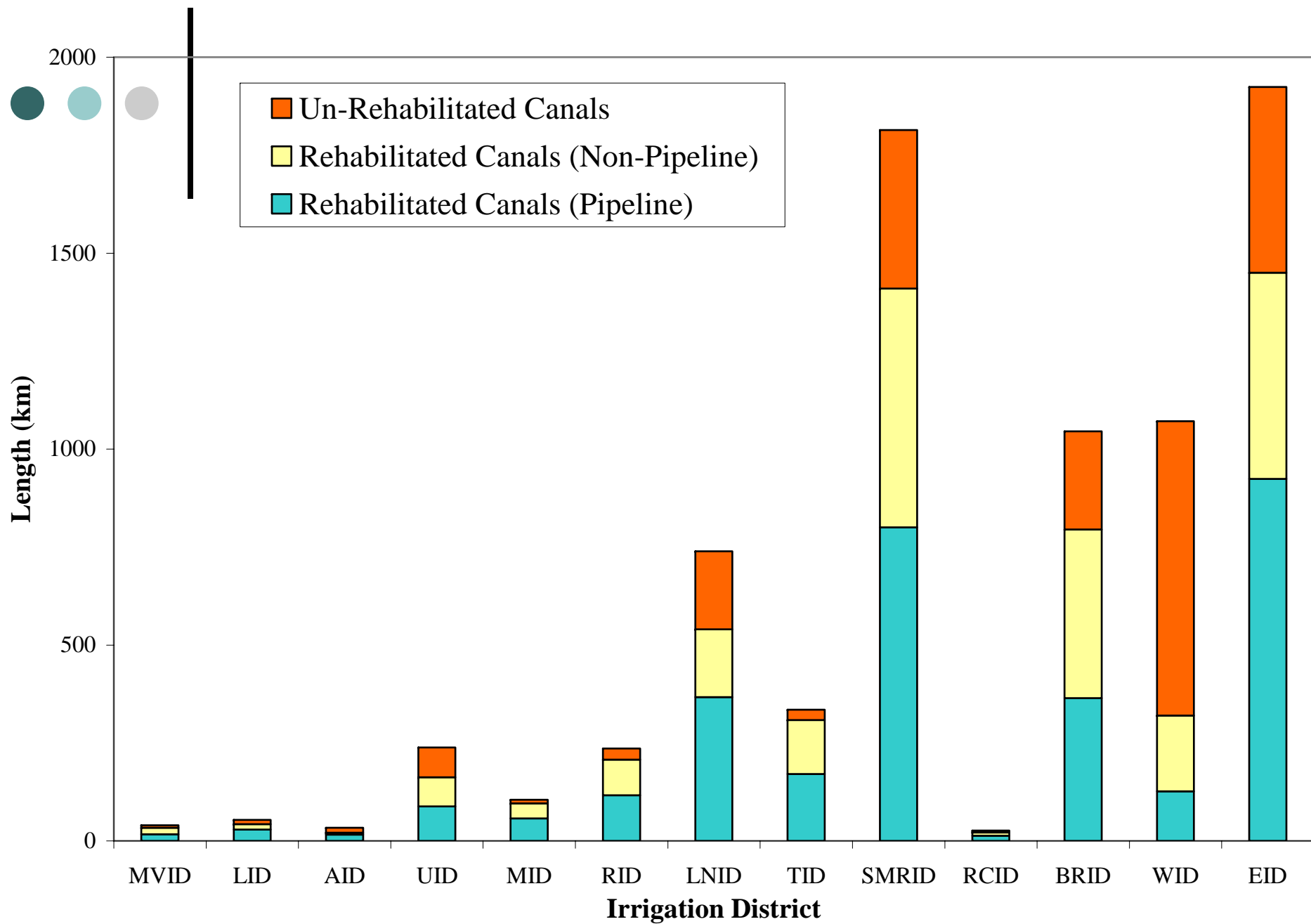
**TOTAL Capital Investment = approx. \$925 Million**

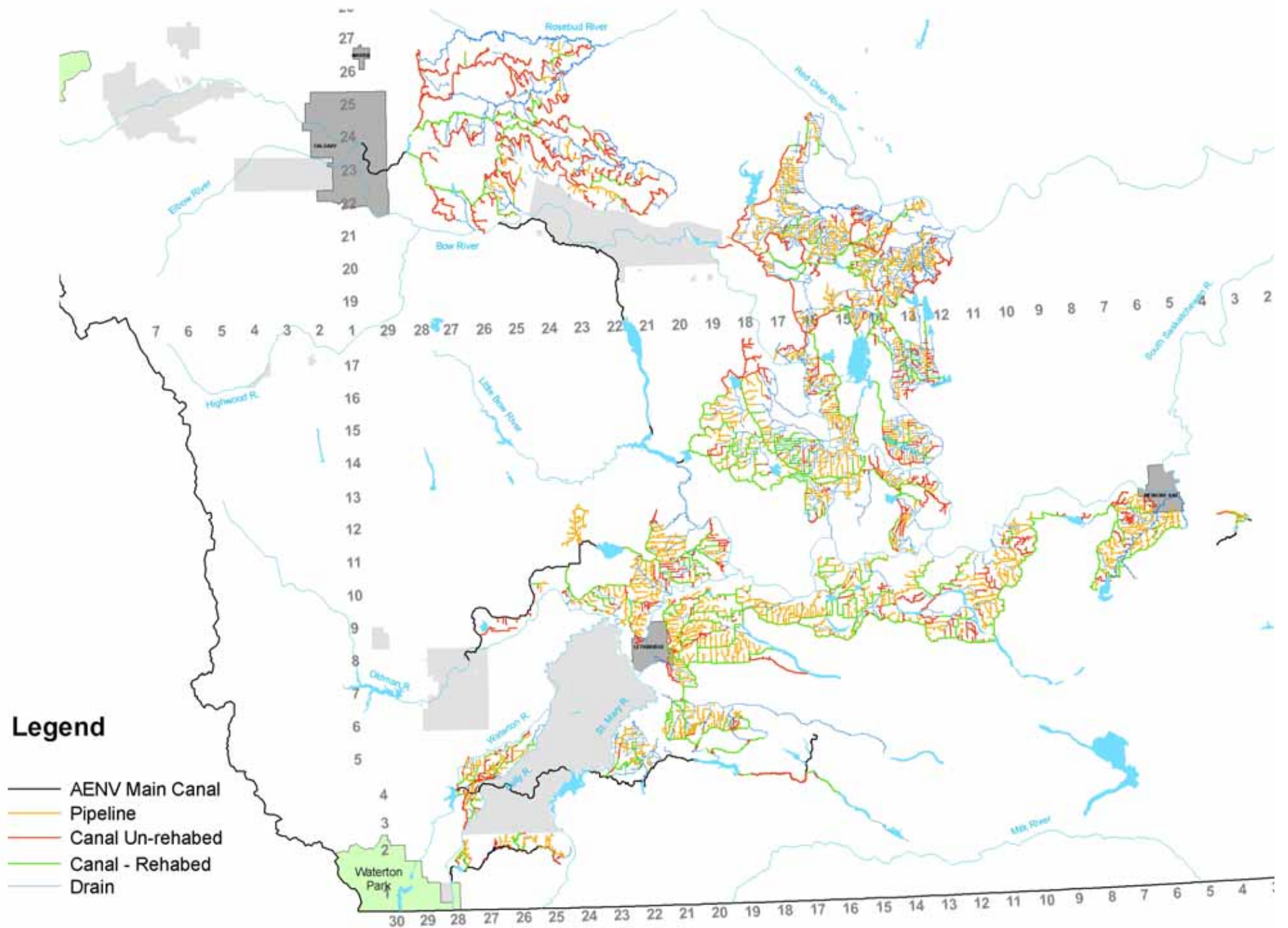
# Irrigation District Rehabilitation

75% provincial – 25% district

## IRP Lined Canals & Pipelines







# Results of IRP

- Less seepage
- Less evaporation
- Increased water delivery efficiency
- Reduced return flows

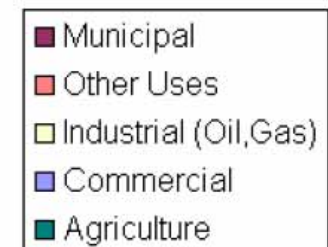
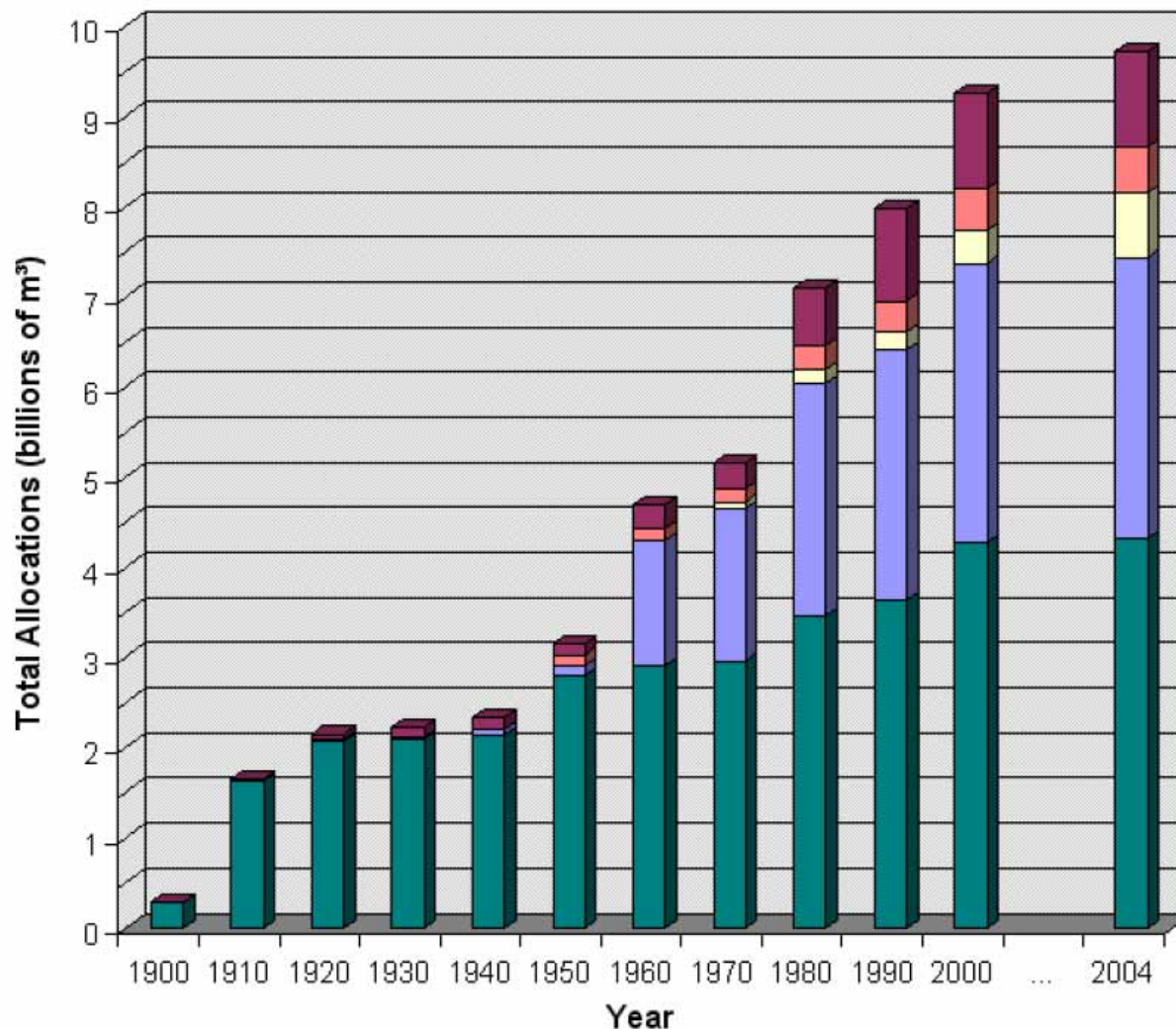


# What to do with Savings?

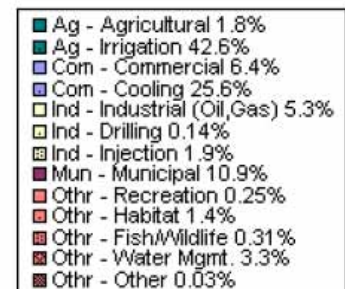
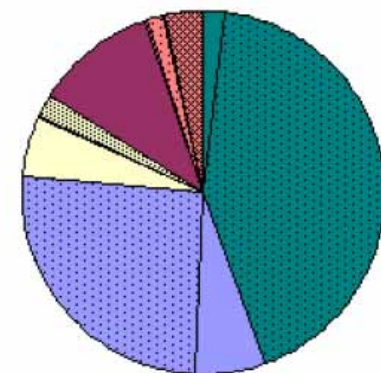
- Expand?
- Sell?
- Return to the environment?
- **Public perception will be important**



# Historical Water Allocations in Alberta



2004 Allocations in Additional Detail



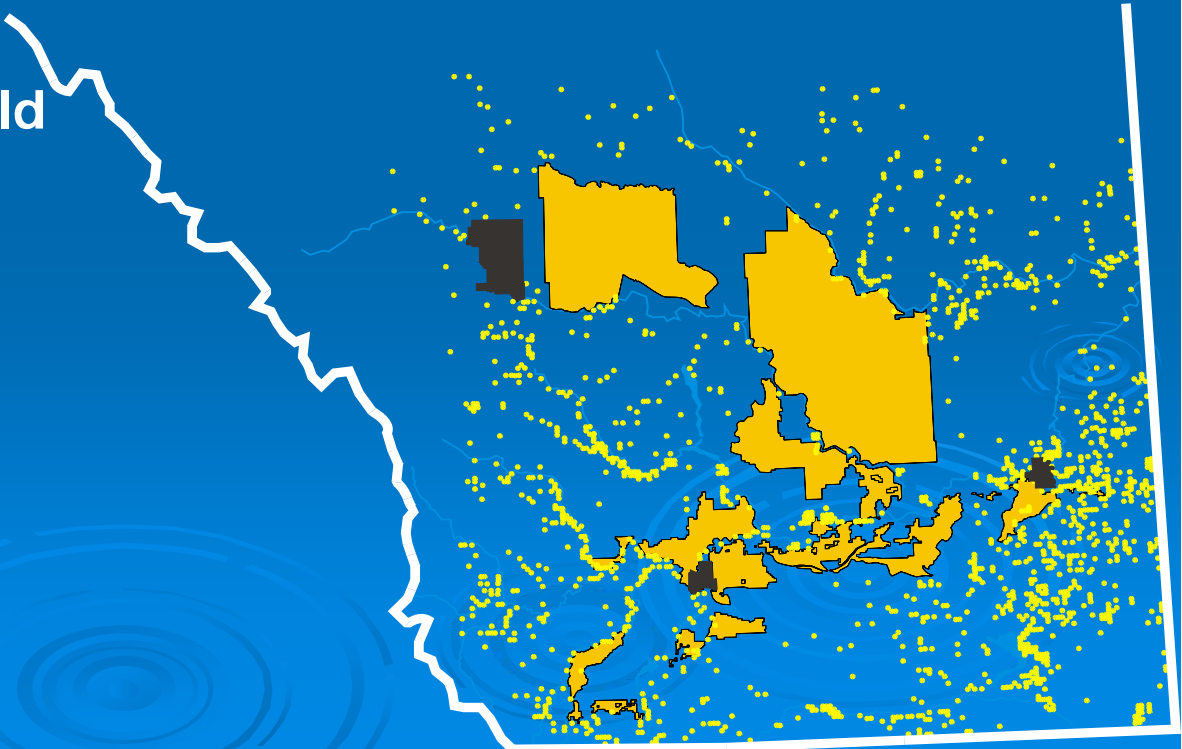
# Expansion Potential

- Water, not land, is the limiting factor restricting irrigation expansion.
- Interest by producers to irrigate far exceeds current water supplies in southern Alberta.



# Irrigation Expansion Potential using existing allocations

- About 640,000 ha of land is currently irrigated in both organized districts and private schemes.
- Irrigation Districts could expand by 10-20% (50,000-100,000 ha)



# Irrigation Expansion

- Requires a vote in favor by irrigators
- BRID, EID and AID voted to expand a few years ago.
- LNID voted for 50,000 acre expansion in March 2010.
- RID, LID, UID, BRID, TID and SMRID are looking at the possibilities



Council is ensuring the Act is followed and providing a response to the Minister

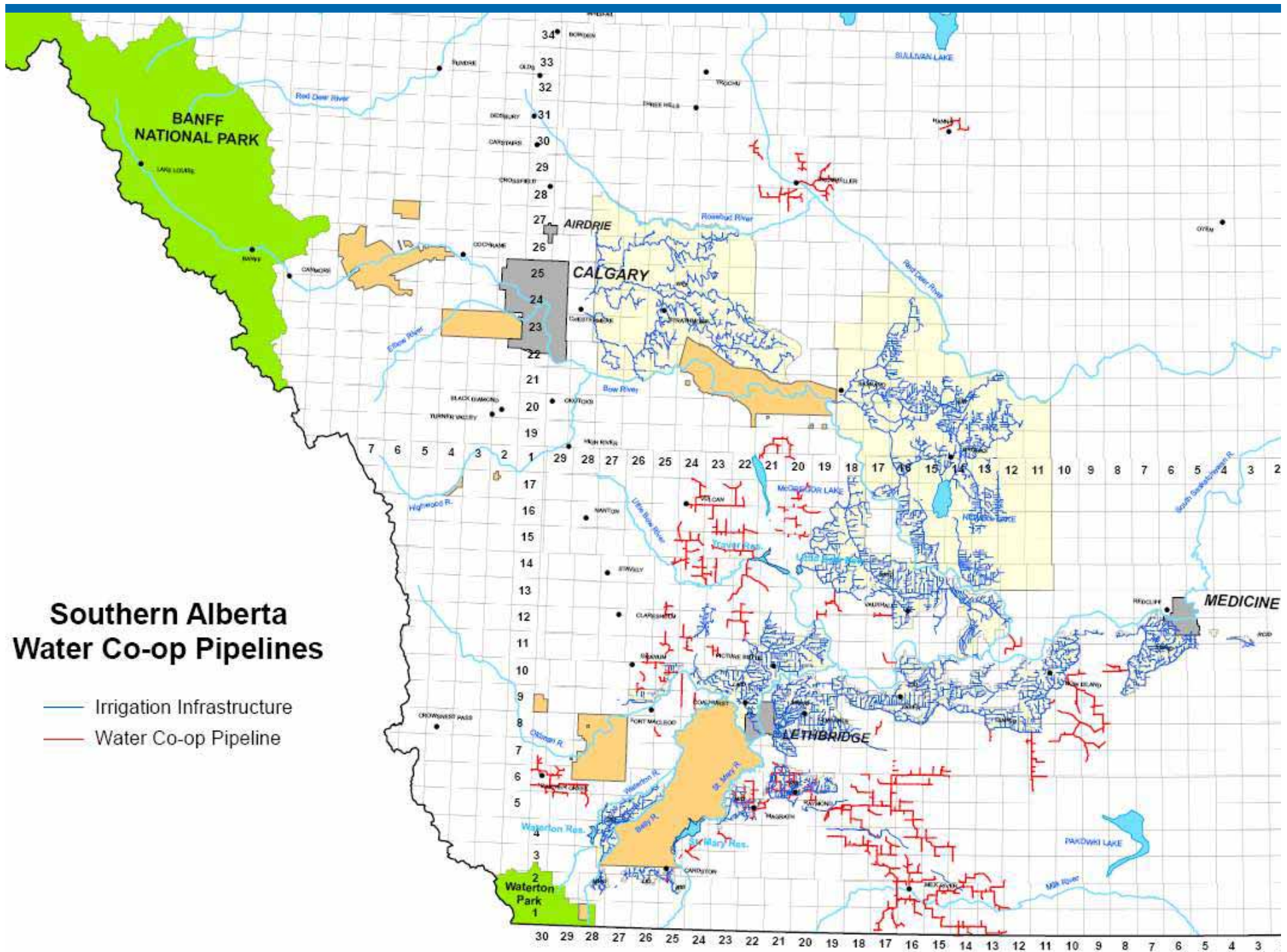
# Change the way we think about water and agriculture

- Public pressures and interests must be acknowledged when dealing with water issues.
- Must be prepared to ensure water is available for other uses – people, livestock and the environment



## Southern Alberta Water Co-op Pipelines

-  Irrigation Infrastructure
-  Water Co-op Pipeline



# **Council and District Annual Discussions 2010 – Regional meetings**

- June 23, 2010 – St. Mary River Districts
- June 24, 2010 – Belly River Districts
- June 25, 2010 – Bow River Districts
- July 8, 2010 – Oldman District



# Irrigation Rehabilitation Program

## Design and Construction Standards 2010



**Thank You**

**Questions?**

