



BEYOND THE HORIZON

NEWS RELEASE

February 4, 2008

Public Hearing Scheduled for Lacombe / Blackfalds Rural Fringe Area Structure Plan

(Lacombe, Alberta) – Lacombe County residents will have a final opportunity to comment on a proposed Area Structure Plan (ASP) for the Lacombe / Blackfalds Rural Fringe Area at a public hearing scheduled for Thursday, February 14 at 9 a.m. in the Lacombe County Council Chambers.

The draft ASP, which was developed with input from property owners, the Towns of Lacombe and Blackfalds and other key stakeholders, received First Reading by Lacombe County Council on January 10, 2008. The public hearing provides all stakeholders with an opportunity to share their thoughts or concerns directly with Council.

“An area structure plan is intended to guide subdivision and development in a particular part of a municipality,” said Lacombe County Long-Range Planner Dale Freitag. “The Lacombe / Blackfalds Rural Fringe ASP describes how land to the south and east of the Town of Blackfalds might be developed in future years.”

The draft future development concept map for the Lacombe / Blackfalds Rural Fringe ASP incorporates planning objectives that reflect values important to area residents, including the preservation of large areas of agricultural land and protecting the rural landscape and environmentally sensitive areas. The Plan also addresses residential and commercial opportunities, the future expansion needs of the Towns of Lacombe and Blackfalds, as well as the need to protect valuable sand and gravel resources in the area.

The Plan area is divided into six policy areas to ensure that policies address a variety of natural and man-made features unique to each area, including gravel resources, the Burbank Industrial Park, Blindman River, Blackfalds Lake and the CN rail line.

The draft Lacombe / Blackfalds Rural Fringe ASP is available at the County Office or online at www.lacombecounty.com.

A copy of the future land use concept map is attached.

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