

# W Rocky View WEEKLY Y

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## Environment director favours regional approach

*Enrique Massot*

Jay Litke, director of the Southern Region of Alberta Environment, says the agency favours a regional approach, especially on water and wastewater servicing issues.

"From a watershed protection point of view, partnerships like the Calgary Regional Partnership ... getting the municipalities to work together, is much better," he said.

"We are promoting that the municipalities try to approach this from a regional point of view."

Litke said the City of Calgary is in a position to favour a regional approach to servicing.

"There are some very large licences that are held by the City of Calgary that, if the governments can work out to best use their licences for the future of the region, it makes sense to us that, rather than running a pipeline from Kneehill out of the Red Deer system, they simply hook up within a mile to the City of Calgary," he said.

"It is a more logical solution, but Calgary has to be in favour of that, obviously."

Litke said smaller systems are more prone to failure and to negatively impact the environment.

"It is better to have one or two systems to be more easily monitored and ensure they are compliant with the rules," he said.

However said Litke, engineering challenges are easier to solve than to make different municipalities agree on how to use the land and how growth will occur.

"The City of Calgary may disagree with some of the growth patterns the M.D. has got going, therefore will refuse to service them, because if they put their lines out it will enhance something they may disagree with.

"So what we really need is for the local governments just to sit down in partnership forums like this and figure it out and agree upon future growth patterns, future residential patterns, future business patterns, and then, logically support it with engineering solutions."

"We are really hoping this partnership helps."



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