ROCKY VIEW COUNTY

WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

Aggregate Resource Committee Recommendations

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

The County's Municipal Development Plan (County Plan) requires the County to develop an aggregate extraction policy and management plan.

To guide development of this plan, the County formed an Aggregate Resource Plan Stakeholder Advisory Committee comprised of country residential residents, agricultural operators, and aggregate industry professionals.

The Committee met regularly from August 2023 until April 2024 and released their findings in a final report. The report is split into two parts; Part 1 lists a set of six Committee Recommendations for the County to consider. Part 2 lists a number of issues where consensus could not be reached and provides a summary of the discussion and different perspectives shared by Committee members on each issue.

Following public release of the Committee's final report, Administration hosted an online survey from May 23 to June 14, 2024 seeking feedback on the Committee's process and findings.

The intent of the survey was to gauge the level of public agreement with the six Committee Recommendations, to confirm how well the public felt represented by the Committee, and to provide the public an additional opportunity to indicate their concerns with aggregate development in the County.

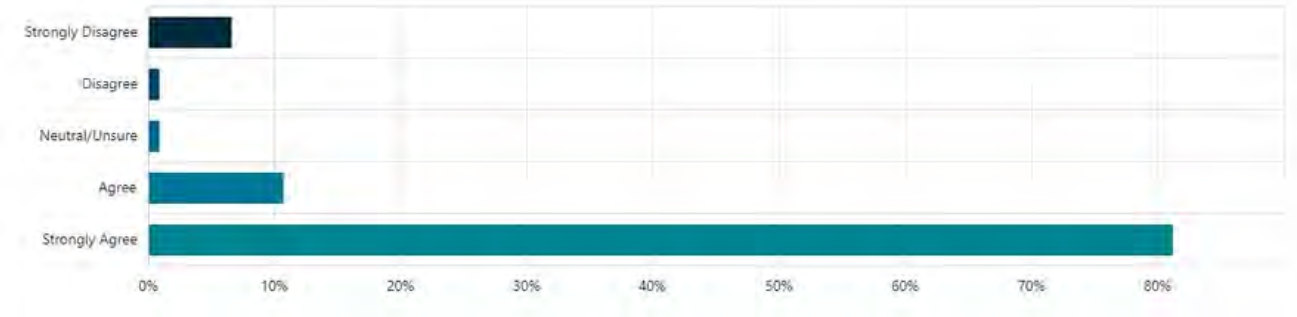
126
Survey participants

60%
Believe their perspectives were well captured in the report

PART 1: COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS WITH CONSENSUS SUPPORT

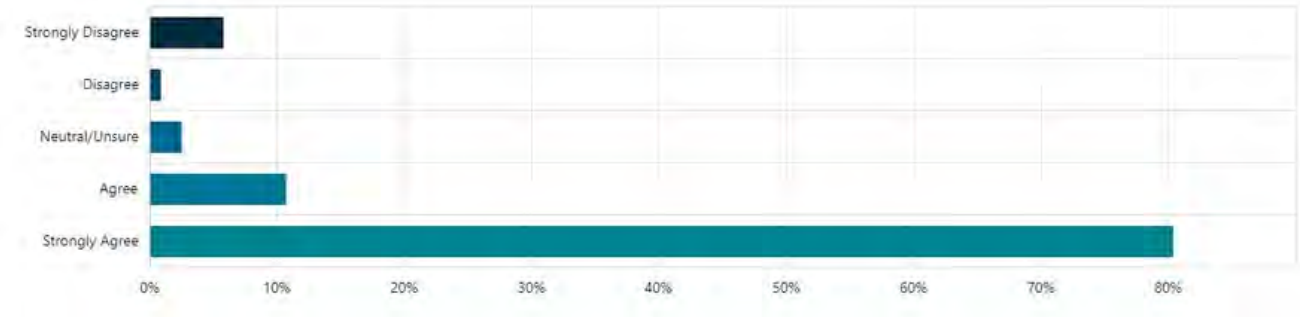
Recommendation #1: *That the County develop Performance Standards specific to aggregate development in the County.*

Response: 81% of respondents strongly agree with this recommendation, 11% agree, and 7% strongly disagree.



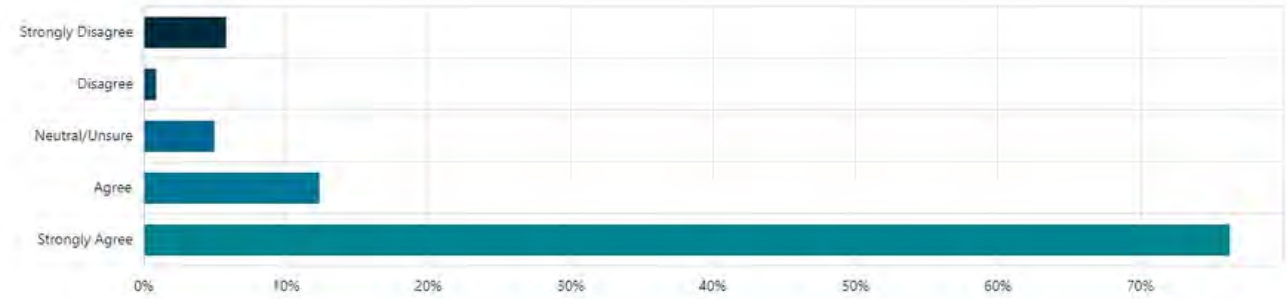
Recommendation #2: *That the County actively regulate aggregate operations through proactive site monitoring, timely expert review of submitted operating reports, and take appropriate enforcement action when necessary.*

Response: 80% of respondents strongly agreed with this recommendation, 11% agreed, 6% strongly disagreed, and 2% were unsure.



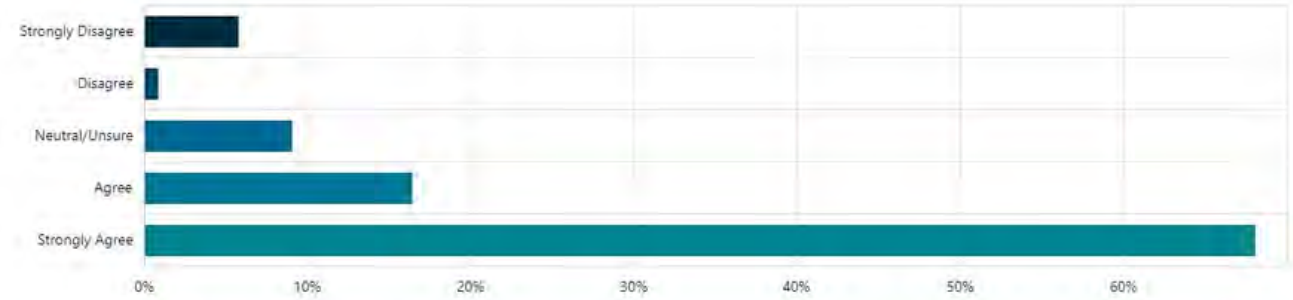
Recommendation #3: *That the County develop updated Application Requirements specific to aggregate development applications in the County.*

Response: 76% of respondents strongly agreed with this recommendation, 12% agreed, 6% strongly disagreed, 5% were neutral/unsure.



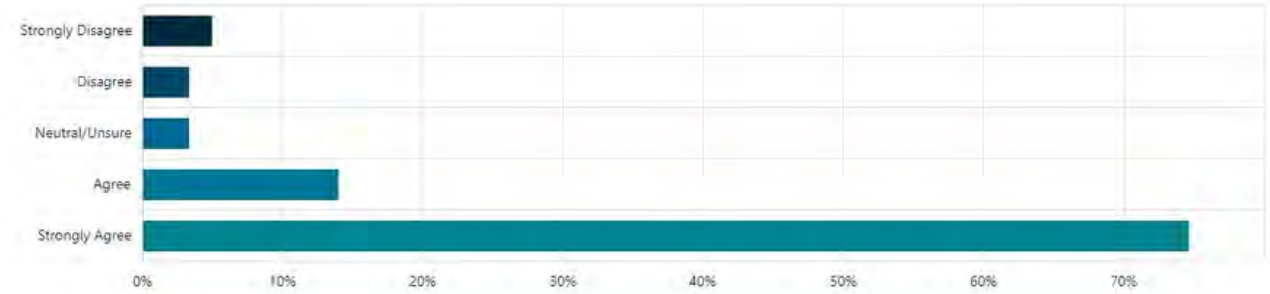
Recommendation #4: *That the County develop a publicly accessible online platform dedicated to aggregate development within the County.*

Response: 68% of respondents strongly agreed with this recommendation, 16% agreed, 6% strongly disagreed, and 9% were neutral/unsure.



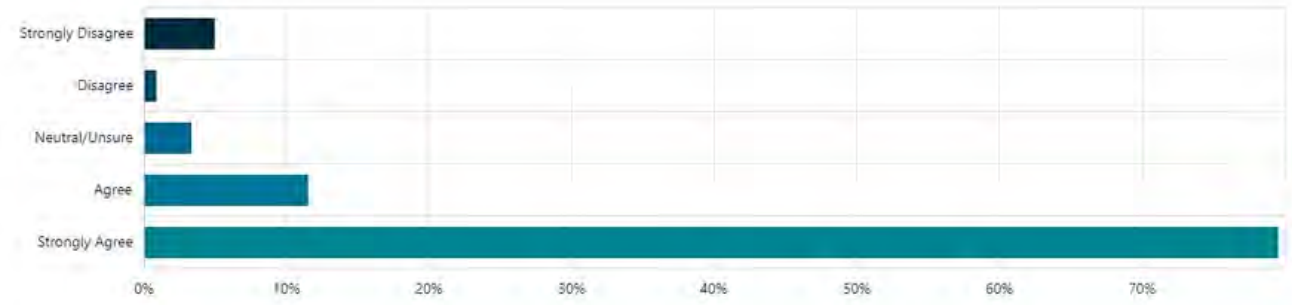
Recommendation #5: *That the County define a mandatory stakeholder engagement process for all new aggregate applications and renewals.*

Response: 75% of respondents strongly agreed with this recommendation, 14% agreed, 5% strongly disagreed, 3% disagreed, and 3% were neutral/unsure.



Recommendation #6: *That the County write an Aggregate Resource Plan with clear, accessible language.*

Response: 80% of respondents strongly agreed with this recommendation, 11% agreed, 5% strongly disagreed, and 3% were neutral/unsure.



PART 2: COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS AND AREAS OF NON-CONSENSUS

Committee members discussed several issues on which consensus was not reached. The report provides a summary of the different perspectives shared by Committee members on each issue. These additional topics include:

- **Locational criteria for Aggregate Development**
- **Consideration for Groundwater**
- **Cumulative Effects**
- **Address Environmental Concerns**
- **Recognize Big Hill Springs Park as an Environmentally Sensitive Area**
- **Application Review Process**
- **Economic Assessment of Aggregate in the County**
- **Mapping of Aggregate Resources in the County**
- **Additional Regulatory Actions**
- **Respect for Property Rights.**

Survey participants were asked: *Do you agree that your perspectives have been captured in this report?*

Of the survey respondents, 60% felt their perspectives had been captured in the report, 17% did not feel their perspectives had been captured in the report, and 23% of respondents were unsure.

Survey participants were asked: *What would you like the County to consider?*
Below are the summarized themes and key findings from the survey:

1. Environment: 38% of respondents expressed concern over the environmental impact that aggregate extraction may cause on the surrounding area, including impacts to air quality, ambient noise, groundwater contamination, and impacts on wildlife and environmentally sensitive areas.

2. Setbacks: 37% of respondents expressed the desire to have minimum setbacks between aggregate extraction operations and residential or community areas.

3. Community Impacts: 30% of respondents expressed concerns about a diverse range of community impacts including dust, noise, sustainability of local infrastructure, additional traffic, and impacts on property values.

4. Economic Equity: 25% of respondents feel that Rocky View County unfairly suffers the majority of direct and indirect impacts due to supplying the region with gravel. There are also questions as to whether there is a demand for expanded gravel operations at this time.

5. Monitoring and Enforcement: 24% of respondents expressed concern about inadequate monitoring and enforcement of aggregate operations in the County. Participants shared that even with regulations, that sites must be monitored more closely, and enforcement action must be stronger.

6. Groundwater: The effects of aggregate extraction on groundwater is a key concern for 23% of respondents, including the potential contamination of groundwater sources and the threat to the stability of the groundwater levels.

7. Health & Safety: 16% of respondents expressed concern over the human health effects of air and water contamination caused by aggregate operations. Issues such as silica dust exposure and metal contamination in water are seen as threats to public health.

8. Cumulative Impacts: 15% of respondents were concerned about the long-term, cumulative effects of aggregate extraction on their community and environmentally sensitive areas.

9. Community Feedback: 14% of respondents feel that greater community engagement is needed throughout the approvals process and ongoing operations of aggregate sites to ensure harmonious operation with nearby communities.

10. Third-Party Expert Review: 13% of respondents expressed concerns over the neutrality of the parties involved in the approvals process and suggest the need for neutral, third-party involvement to ensure unbiased expert review of technical reports.

11. Traffic: 12% of respondents felt that aggregate extraction sites create dangerous traffic conditions along haul routes. Damage to roads and road safety concerns were expressed.

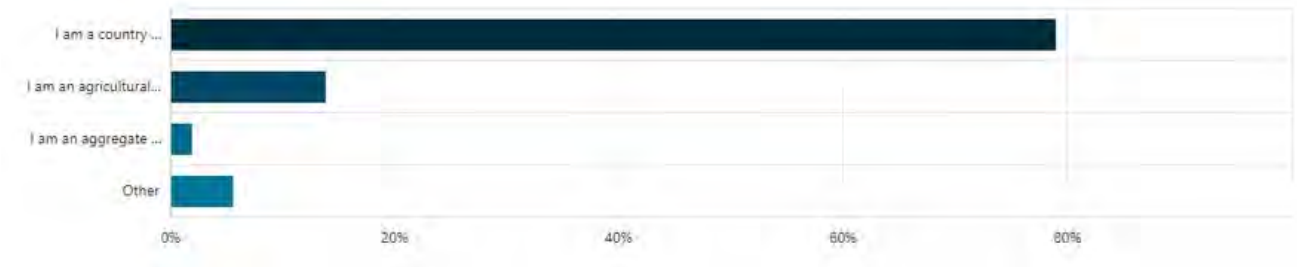
12. Communication: 6% of respondents expect stronger communication by the County regarding proposed applications, operating pits, and opportunities for engagement.

13. Big Hill Springs Provincial Park: 6% of respondents have specific concerns about the protection of Big Hill Springs Provincial Park due to its fragile ecosystem and proximity to aggregate resource extraction activities.

SURVEY
DEMOGRAPHICS

Survey participants

Of the survey respondents, 80% identified as county residential residents, 14% identified as agricultural operators or landowners, 2% identified as aggregate industry professionals, and 6% identified as "other."



THANK YOU

Thank you to all who took the time to share their views, thoughts, and concerns on aggerate resource recommendations provided by the Aggregate Resource Plan Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

The participation of our community is vital to developing balanced and effective regulations. We encourage all interested residents to stay informed on this project's progress by visiting engage.rockyview.ca for updates.