
South East Kelowna Irrigation District (\$23,000)

Hydraulic Creek Source Water Protection Plan

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The South East Kelowna Irrigation District is an improvement district incorporated under letters patent by order in council of the British Columbia legislature November 2, 1920. SEKID is one of five public water utilities serving the City of Kelowna and serves approximately 22% of the area of the City of Kelowna. The service area of the South East Kelowna Irrigation District encompasses almost 9,000 acres of land, most of it agricultural land.

The project will complete modules 1, 2, 7 & 8 of the *Source to Tap Assessment* guide developed by the BC Water and Wastewater Association (BCWWA) for the Province. Module 1 involves the delineation and characterization of the drinking water source(s). Watershed reports and GIS data are compiled and summarized. Module 2 is the contaminant source inventory. The information summarized in Module 1 is used to identify locations in the watershed that may be affected by a variety of hazards that could contaminate the water supply. Ground based assessments of these locations are completed to rate the degree of contamination or potential contamination to the surface water. The primary contaminant is typically soil/sediment from industrial roads, recreation and range use and wildlife. Fecal material from cattle and wildlife may also be introduced to the streams and illegal dumping may also introduce contaminants to the source water. Module 7 characterizes the risks from source to tap. This Module evaluates the drinking water protection barriers and assesses the risks identified in Modules 1 and 2. This will identify and prioritize problem/potential problem locations. Module 8 recommends actions to improve drinking water protection.

To date modules 1 & 2 are nearing completion, these are the technical assessments of the watershed boundary and a mapping of identified sources of pathogen loading into the water supply. The remainder of the project, modules 7 & 8 should be completed by the end of November 2008.

In addition to SEKID completing a Source to Tap Assessment there is a desire from Interior Health Authority to strike a Steering or Advisory Committee to oversee the development of these risk assessment plans. They would like to see the various land use agencies become involved in the development of the plans. SEKID has resisted this because the plans are fairly basic technical exercise designed to identify and characterize risk.

