

December 16, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FLOODGATES OPEN ON GRANTS TO CONSERVE OR IMPROVE WATER

Kelowna, B.C. – The Okanagan Basin Water Board is looking for applicants as it rolls out this year’s Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program. Eligible recipients include local governments (regional districts or municipalities), non profit community groups, and irrigation or improvement districts. As part of the process, all grant applicants must submit a council or board resolution from local government, endorsing their application.

Successful applicants can receive up to \$30,000 for their project, with a total of \$300,000 available, notes Genevieve Dunbar, Grants Administrator for the OBWB. “We want projects that are tangible, on-the-ground works, that address conserving water or improving its quality,” she says. “Applicants should show how their project will help the valley adapt to climate change and fluctuations in annual water supply.

“We are especially looking for applications that complement our latest projects, like Drought Response Planning, Education and Outreach, and the Sustainable Water Strategy,” says Dunbar.

“In the past, we’ve provided grants to some fantastic initiatives, like a water audit of small businesses, a Xeriscape education and outreach program, and a project to map the shoreline of local lakes. Every year we look forward to seeing what new and innovative ideas come in to our office.”

The Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program is in its fifth year and has granted over \$1.4 million to 78 projects.

This year’s application deadline is Friday, February 19, 2010. Information on the application process, including the need for a board or council resolution of support, as well as the application, can be found at www.obwb.ca . For more information contact Genevieve Dunbar at 250-469-6270 or genevieve.dunbar@obwb.ca.

For more information on the Okanagan Basin Water Board and its programs, please visit www.obwb.ca.