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Software helping agriculturists

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A computer model developed to determine the amount of water resources required for agricultural land in the Okanagan now and in the future is helping identify, develop, and protect long-term agricultural water supplies.

The provincial government partnered with Agriculture Canada to develop the agriculture water demand model prior to the start of the Okanagan Water Basin water supply and demand study. The intent was to have a tool that could determine agriculture's requirements and provide this information to the larger study and other users in the Okanagan.

"The agriculture statistics on present use and future water needs were crucial facts to be included in the overall area study," said Anna Warwick Sears, executive director of the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

"The ultimate goal of the project is to be able to establish better systems to track natural water flows, establish water-use patterns, and estimate how these will change in the future."

The agriculture water demand model project took over three years to complete and had 35 different staff, contractors and consultants working on various phases of the project.

Agriculture Canada provided \$249,000 in funding and an estimated \$250,000 of in-kind support was received from various organizations.

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