

news

# Apply now for water project funding

The Okanagan Basin Water Board is now accepting applications to its 2015 Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant program.

The grants are distributed according to the percentage of tax each region pays into the program.

This year there is \$56,850 available to the North Okanagan, \$179,310 to the Central Okanagan, and \$63,840 to the South Okanagan.

Last year, the water board conducted a comprehensive review of all previous grants and created a new grant database at [www.obwb.ca/wcqi\\_project](http://www.obwb.ca/wcqi_project).

"The projects were organized into 18 categories from drought planning to xeriscape," explained OBWB office and project manager James Littlely.

Littlely said the water board of directors has chosen eight categories for special consideration

during this grant cycle—among them drought planning, groundwater, irrigation, metering, restoration, source protection, water system improvement (quantity and quality) and water flow monitoring.

"Projects in these categories really address some of the board's priority areas from the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan," said Littlely.

"They also complement projects that OBWB staff are currently working on

and close some of the gaps in the valley-wide management of water."

Still, the OBWB encourages applications in all conservation and quality improvement categories.

"The application process is straightforward, and this year all the forms are available online," Littlely said.

On average, 20 projects are funded per year. Over the past eight years since the program began, the OBWB has awarded \$2.9

million to 179 projects worth more than \$18 million.

Earlier this fall, the three Okanagan regional districts renewed their commitment to fund this program for four more years.

This year's grant application deadline is 4 p.m., Friday, Feb. 6, 2015.

The complete program guide and application forms can be found at [obwb.ca/wcqi](http://obwb.ca/wcqi).

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## INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

# Catch a quickie YLW to San Francisco

If San Francisco is on your bucket list, the time to act is now.

Kelowna International Airport (YLW) is ready to launch a "Go for a San Francisco Quickie" campaign to promote United Airlines' seasonal non-stop United Express service to "The City by the Bay."

With a flight time of only 150 minutes on a 50-seat CRJ regional jet, a weekend getaway to San Francisco is as tempting as the tourist adventures awaiting you upon your arrival.

The campaign, which boasts "150 Minutes to 150 Adventures," has

just started to launch teasers via social media highlighting the various reasons to take a quick trip to San Francisco.

By Jan. 12, the campaign will expand to include a chance to enter to win a getaway.

"We really want people to understand how quick the flight is, and consider San Francisco as a destination for their February or March vacation," said Kelowna airport director Sam Samaddar.

United will offer YLW to San Francisco service as a seasonal flight through April 6, then the service will resume in the late fall.

"Non-stop flights mean less time, cost and hassle for travellers who would otherwise experience layovers and transfers," said Samaddar.

"It's important that

we support the services to ensure the airlines continue offering these routes and we keep the travel dollars working in our local economy."

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# House fire started in the furnace room

Kelowna Fire Department responded to a report of a house on fire Monday night at the 600 block of Cook Rd. Residents were home when the fire started and kept it at bay with a dry chemical extinguisher before fire crews arrived.

The fire department members finished extinguishing the smoldering material and ventilated smoke from the residence. The cause of the fire is undetermined at this time but not deemed suspicious.

There were no injuries. The fire department would like to remind everyone to ensure their smoke alarms are working by testing them periodically.

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