

**Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Initiative  
2006 Awards**

The intent of this initiative is to assist local governments in addressing issues that enhance valley-wide sustainable use of water. Through this program, the Water Board seeks to foster innovative and collaborative projects that might otherwise lack funds to be implemented in a timely manner. Projects were selected for recommendation based on a range of factors – including how well the project matched the goals of the program, the availability of funding, and whether the project supports other regional initiatives such as the Okanagan Basin Water Supply and Demand Study. The total of all eligible proposals was \$645,987, out of an original \$300,000 allocation.

**Regional District of North Okanagan:**

<p><b>Original allocation: \$56,400.</b> <b>Total of submitted proposals: \$140,000.</b></p>
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- **Water metering** (approved July 11, 2006)  
Grandview Waterworks District, City of Spallumcheen  
Approved funding: \$16,400

The OBWB gave metering a high priority during this funding cycle. Not only does water metering provide clear and useful information for water providers and water users, but water metering can provide a strong incentive for water conservation. Researchers working on the Groundwater Assessment of the Okanagan Basin have indicated that this metering data will be a real asset to their study.

- **Water source review** (approved June 6, 2006)  
Greater Vernon Water Utility  
Approved funding: \$30,000

This proposal will review the quantity of water available from its major water sources, determine options for increasing storage, and to identify opportunities for funding partnerships for future projects to improve infrastructure.

- **Water conservation communication and outreach** (approved June 6, 2006)  
City of Armstrong  
Approved funding: \$10,000

This proposal provides funding to hire a student intern from the Okanagan College's Water Quality Technology program. The student will provide staffing for a variety of water conservation efforts including a demonstration garden at City Hall, public xeriscaping workshops, and a rebate program for rain barrels.

### **Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen:**

<p><b>Original allocation: \$65,700.</b> <b>Total of submitted proposals: \$100,000.</b></p>
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- **Dole valve installations** (approved July 11, 2006)  
Osoyoos Irrigation District  
Approved funding: \$23,000

This project will result in a substantial upgrade of the existing agricultural irrigation system, reducing water leakage and permitting future installation of water meters.

- **Water metering and education program** (approved July 11, 2006)  
West Bench Irrigation District  
Approved funding: \$22,000

The OBWB gave metering a high priority during this funding cycle. Not only does water metering provide clear and useful information for water providers and water users, but water metering can provide a strong incentive for water conservation. Having an educational component will increase the effectiveness of the metering program.

- **Water demand reduction strategies** (approved July 11, 2006)  
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, Electoral Areas E & F  
Approved funding: \$10,700

This proposal includes programs for three demand-reduction strategies in Faulder and Naramata, including water conservation advertising, rebates for low-flow fixtures and rebates for xeriscaping.

- **Flow measurement** (approved June 6, 2006)  
City of Penticton  
Amount approved: \$10,000

This proposal supports efforts by the City of Penticton to measure flows on Penticton and Ellis Creeks, which supply domestic and irrigation water to users in the city. Measurements of creek discharges will help maintain adequate flows for fish and better monitor amounts used under the City's water license. Flow measurement will also help the city evaluate their water storage capacity.

### **Regional District of Central Okanagan:**

<p><b>Original allocation: \$177,900.</b> <b>Total of submitted proposals: \$405,987.</b></p>
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- **Upgrading hydrometric stations for real-time monitoring and control**  
Black Mountain Irrigation District  
Approved funding: \$30,000

The Black Mountain Irrigation District is required to monitor flow levels in the Mission Creek watershed and maintain appropriate water levels for fisheries throughout the year. The current proposal seeks to upgrade the existing hydrometric monitoring system to allow remote control of flows in Mission Creek – improving the effectiveness of water management.

- **Sensitive habitat inventory mapping**  
City of Kelowna  
Approved funding: \$25,000

This proposal builds on previous efforts to map precise channel locations and environmental resources along creeks within the city limits of Kelowna. In 2005, the City hired consultants to map portions of Mill Creek and Bellevue Creek. The current proposal covers six other water courses. Sensitive habitat inventory mapping is essential for identifying sources of water quality impairment, and to aid in city planning.

- **Water storage feasibility study**  
Lakeview Irrigation District  
Approved funding: \$17,050

This proposal seeks to identify and evaluate potential sites for increasing water storage in the Lambly Creek watershed. Increasing storage has been identified as one of the best means for reducing the impacts of drought.

- **Water metering**  
District of Peachland  
Approved funding: \$27,242.50

The OBWB gave metering a high priority during this funding cycle. Not only does water metering provide clear and useful information for water providers and water users, but water metering can provide a strong incentive for water conservation. In Peachland, water meters are expected to reduce water consumption by 20%. Having an educational component will increase the effectiveness of the metering program.

- **Water metering**  
Westbank Irrigation District  
Approved funding: \$27,242.50

The OBWB gave metering a high priority during this funding cycle. Not only does water metering provide clear and useful information for water providers and water users, but water metering can provide a strong incentive for water conservation – with estimated water savings of up to 20% over the first three years. Having an educational component will increase the effectiveness of the metering program. Universal water metering in Westbank is predicted to help extend the capacity of the Powers Creek Water Treatment Plant.

- **Teacher resources and outreach for Okanagan Waterscape Poster**  
Central Okanagan Science Opportunities for Kids Society (SOKS)  
Approved funding: \$26,365

This proposal seeks to develop an education and outreach program for the Okanagan Waterscape Poster, which was produced in partnership between Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, and local groups – including the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

- **Water conservation exhibit at the Environmental Education Centre**  
Regional District of Central Okanagan, Parks and Recreation Department  
Approved funding: \$20,000

This proposal seeks to develop and run a new exhibit, titled “Water: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow,” in the spring and summer of 2007. The exhibit will be developed in collaboration with the City of Kelowna’s Water Smart program. The Environmental Education Centre hosts more than 25,000 visitors a year and this will provide an excellent opportunity to communicate with local citizens about water management issues.

- **Okanagan lakeshore best management practices illustrations**  
Regional District of Central Okanagan  
Approved funding: \$5,000

This proposal seeks funding to produce professional illustrations of best management practices for a lakeshore plan update, as well as public signs, notices and promotional materials. Illustrations will be available for use by all public agencies and non-governmental groups in the Okanagan, without further cost.