

Water Supply & Demand Project Messages

November 2, 2007

The Okanagan Water Supply & Demand project is the first comprehensive basin-wide water analysis since 1974. The project addresses a critical knowledge gap with significant implications for the environmental, social and economic sustainability of the Okanagan.

The Project is using the best available science and computer technology to evaluate the status of the Okanagan water budget. Policy recommendations will not be made.

The Okanagan Water Supply & Demand project will provide a clear understanding of how much water we have; variations in when and where the water is available; how much water we use; and how much water will be needed in the future under selected population growth and climate change scenarios. The project will also identify remaining information gaps including where we need more data.

Local government and industry leaders require good information to base long term decisions for environmental, social and economic sustainability.

The Okanagan business, government, environmental, and scientific communities have clearly identified the need to develop a science-based water budget for the Okanagan.

The project will provide important information to water managers, helping them better manage Okanagan water resources.

Our quality of life in the Okanagan depends on successfully managing our finite common water supply in the face of population growth and climate change. The Water Supply & Demand project is a pro-active approach to planning and adapting to this change.

The Water Supply & Demand Project is being conducted as a partnership between the Okanagan Basin Water Board and the Ministry of Environment, with significant contributions from the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, the Ministry of Community Services, Agriculture & Agri-Foods Canada, Environment Canada, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada along with stakeholder representatives of the BC Agriculture Council, Water Supply Association of BC and the Planning Institute of BC.

Products: Okanagan Water Information Infrastructure

- A cutting-edge, comprehensive water science database
- State-of-the-Basin reports on water supply, water use & demand, groundwater and instream flow needs
- Hydrologic models for surface and groundwater
- A GIS-based agricultural demand model
- A water budget model for the Basin with climate change scenarios
- An Okanagan water information reference library