

## OKANAGAN GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROJECT BACKGROUND

### **The need:**

Recent studies<sup>[1]</sup> show a need to increase the number of groundwater observation wells throughout the Okanagan to develop better information in priority areas, and gain a better understanding of ongoing changes to groundwater supplies.

Monitoring wells help water managers understand the basic health of aquifers, and how they are affected by human use and changes in rain and snowfall. The management of local groundwater plays an integral role in the environmental and socio-economic sustainability of the region.

The wells will help protect, manage and sustain groundwater and overall water resources in the Okanagan.

### **The goal:**

The primary goal of the Okanagan Groundwater Monitoring Project is to develop 15 observation wells in the Okanagan over three years (2010-13).

A number of wells have now been drilled as part of this project, including:

- 2 on Anarchist Mountain (outside of Osoyoos)
- 2 in Oliver
- 2 in Twin Lakes (near Keremeos)
- 1 in Spallumcheen, and
- 1 in Joe Rich

Others are proposed in Ellison, Summerland, West Kelowna, Penticton, and in an aquifer on UBC Okanagan lands.

### **Partners (financial and in-kind):**

- B.C. Ministry of Environment
- B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Environment Canada
- Okanagan Basin Water Board
- Local governments

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<sup>[1]</sup> HyGeo Consulting Review (2009); Golder Associates (2009) – Phase 2 Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Project.

**Benefit to local government partners:**

Participating local government partners will have access to enhanced groundwater monitoring for land-use development decisions that occur over local groundwater aquifers.

This project is designed to bring together all levels of government to develop and enhance the available information about local Okanagan aquifers – with significant cost sharing support.

**Typical budget for a well:**

B.C. Ministry of Environment	\$18,000
• Equipment (monitoring stations)	
• On-going data collection / web reporting	
• Well sighting and consultation	
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	\$ 7,500
Okanagan Basin Water Board	\$ 6,000
Local Government	\$ 6,500
(estimate – depends on well depth)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$38,000</b>