

IMPORTANT:

**CHANGES TO WATER CONSERVATION & QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
GRANTS**

November 27, 2018

There are two major changes to the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant program starting in the 2019 grant year.

1. Funding will be allocated valley-wide, with a total pooled fund of \$300,000.

In past years funding was allocated by region, but following reconsideration by the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB), this change was approved unanimously by all three regional districts in the Okanagan in 2018. Funding will be provided to the projects with the most merit according to the OBWB board-approved scoring criteria, regardless of location. This change should encourage projects that are inter-jurisdictional in scope, enhance partnerships, and reflect the nature of our shared water in the valley; recognizing that a project in one area may provide significant benefits in multiple areas. It also provides the flexibility to address gaps, working towards an enhanced quality of life through sustainable water management.

2. The requirement for local government support has changed.

In past years, all applicants required a formal resolution of support from a local government board (in a regional district) or council (in a municipality). However, many local governments found that requirement confusing and onerous. Starting in 2019, local governments will have the flexibility to provide a letter of support that meets the following requirements:

1. Letter must be signed by an officer (CAO, CO, or CFO) of the local government or the Mayor (municipality) or Chairperson (regional district); and
2. The letter must be from the local government(s) with jurisdiction over the project area.

If an applicant cannot obtain support for the project which meets this requirement, the application will not be considered. The process for providing this support is at the discretion of each local government.

Local government letters of support for WCQI applicants are meant to ensure that the project is consistent with water management objectives in local jurisdictions and provide local governments a role in the screening process. It also informs officials so they are aware of proposed projects in their community, and ensures that they have endorsed those applications coming from their own organization.

FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE WCQI GRANTS PROGRAM,
CONTACT THE OPERATIONS AND GRANTS MANAGER, 250-469-6270 OR GRANTS@OBWB.CA.