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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAJOR OKANAGAN WATER STUDY WINS AWARD

Penticton, B.C. – The Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) and 13 partnering agencies were presented with the “Award for Excellence in the Water and Waste Community” by the B.C. Water and Waste Association (BCWWA). The award was presented in recognition of the partnership’s work on the three-year extensive Okanagan Water and Supply Demand Study.

“After several years of intense work, getting to understand the complex working of our water in the Okanagan – how much we have – how much we use – it’s wonderful to have that work recognized by the BCWWA with this major provincial award,” said Anna Warwick Sears, Executive Director of the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

The award was presented to Dr. Warwick Sears and Dr. Wenda Mason, Manager of the B.C. River Forecast Centre, and accepted on behalf of the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Project Partnership during the BCWWA’s annual convention this week at the Penticton Convention Centre.

In presenting the award, the BCWWA noted that the Partnership produced the most detailed assessment of water supply and demand ever conducted in Western Canada. As a result, the Okanagan now has the best water information in the province.

“This Partnership exemplifies the best of collaboration, innovation and applied research which will support future water planning in the Okanagan, but will also help address B.C.’s water challenges,” noted Daisy Foster, Chief Executive Officer of the BCWWA. “The impact of this work will be felt throughout B.C. for decades by providing new approaches and models that can be replicated in other parts of the province, and by informing B.C. water policy and law reform.”

“It is excellent to be recognized by BCWWA – the biggest water and wastewater industry group in the province. There is no greater honour than to be recognized by your peers,” added Warwick Sears, co-chair of the project. “It is exciting to see the B.C. water industry emerge as leaders in Canada, and it was a privilege to work with such high-caliber researchers. The OBWB appreciates all the hard work by our project partners and the team of environmental professionals who moved the study forward.”

List of Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Project Partners

Okanagan Basin Water Board

B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations

B.C. Ministry of Environment

B.C. Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

B.C. Ministry of Agriculture

Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada

Environment Canada

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Okanagan Nation Alliance
Water Supply Association of BC
BC Agriculture Council
University of British Columbia
Simon Fraser University
University of Lethbridge

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