

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: J. Zaffino, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: February 20, 2025

RE: **Letter of Support for Osoyoos Irrigation District Grant Application**

Administrative Recommendation:

THAT the Regional District provide a letter of support to Osoyoos Irrigation District (OID) for their grant application to Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) Water Conservation and Quality Improvement grant program.

Purpose:

The OBWB requires that all Water Conservation and Quality Improvement grant applications be accompanied by a letter of support from the organization's local government.

Reference:

[2018-11-27 Memo WCQI Grant Request for Support from Local Governments](#)

OID request dated February 11, 2025

Background:

Osoyoos Irrigation District provides water to approximately 165 houses and 50 agricultural properties, many with residences. A single reservoir and piping system is currently used to provide residents with well water in winter, but in summer, when agricultural irrigation occurs and water demand exceeds what the well can produce, the system provides water from Osoyoos Lake for both agricultural and domestic purposes. As it is not feasible to adequately treat large volumes of lake water, OID residents are on a continual boil water advisory. The solution is to separate the domestic water from water to be used for agriculture and only treat the domestic quantities.

Analysis:

The Osoyoos Irrigation District is submitting a grant request to OBWB for \$30,000 to enable them to install water meters at a sample of residential properties. Unlike many other jurisdictions, water to be used for irrigation purposes at many of the residential properties is separated underground, prior to where the water pipes enter the residence, from water destined for use inside the residence. This necessitates the more expensive installation of water meters in pits at the property boundary rather than the cheaper option of installing the water meters inside the residence itself.

While the grant request amount would only allow the installation of a few (perhaps up to 10) water meters, which is insufficient to be able to base water billing on actual water use, the main impetus for OID's proposal is to obtain water use measurements for a sample of individual properties. This information will be aggregated to determine the required size of a new reservoir, as well as additional piping to facilitate the separation of water for agricultural irrigation from water provided for residential purposes.

Financial Implications:

There is no financial implication for the Regional District.

Alternatives:

THAT the Board of Directors declines to provide a letter of support to OID for their grant application.

Communication Strategy:

The letter of support will be provided to OID prior to the grant application deadline.

Respectfully submitted:

"Gillian Cramm"

G. Cramm, Deputy Corporate Officer

Endorsed by:

C. Malden, Corporate Officer