



21 July 2010

Ron Mattiussi, City Manager  
City of Kelowna  
1435 Water Street,  
Kelowna, BC V1Y 1J4

Re: ***Okanagan groundwater quantity monitoring project (OGMP): Enhancing groundwater supply monitoring in the Okanagan***

Dear Ron Mattiussi:

The OGMP steering committee is looking to establish the level of interest by the City of Kelowna to participate in developing new monitoring wells for water table levels in your local area as part of a network of strategic monitoring wells throughout the Okanagan. Local governments interested in partnering in this project will be asked to participate on the Project steering committee and contribute matching funds (see draft budget for details – Table 1) toward the development of groundwater monitoring well(s) in your jurisdiction. Participating local government partners will have access to enhanced groundwater monitoring that may be useful 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.

Environment Canada has designated the Okanagan and Similkameen as a priority ecosystem region, recognizing the inherent water availability challenges and the importance of groundwater management in the basin. Recent scientific groundwater studies<sup>7</sup> show that there is a need to increase the observation wells throughout the Okanagan, both to develop better local information in priority areas, and to gain a better understanding of ongoing changes to groundwater supplies in the valley as a whole. The installation and operation of monitoring wells help water managers understand the composition and basic health of the aquifers (trends in water table), 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.

In partnership with the BC Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Environment Canada and the Okanagan Basin Water Board a review has been conducted

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<sup>7</sup> HyGeo Consulting Review (2009); Golder Associates (2009) – Phase 2 Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Project.

and a list of recommended strategic aquifers (see map of Proposed Aquifers for Establishment of New Observation Wells) that require water monitoring has been developed.

The primary goal of the Okanagan Groundwater Monitoring Project is to develop fifteen (15) new observation wells in the Okanagan basin over the next three years; with five (5) monitoring wells implemented this year. Financial and on-going data collection and reporting resources have been contributed by Project steering committee team members.

A draft project budget is given below (Table 1.) that shows estimated costs to partner Local Governments and the contributions of the Project steering committee team. The costs associated with different monitoring will vary depending on location and well depth, and will be finalized upon determination of interested Local Government partners.

Please contact Nelson Jatel at (250) 469-6295 if you are interested in further exploring participating in this project. A written request including a Council/Board motion will be required from local government project partners.

Sincerely,



Members of the Okanagan Groundwater Monitoring Project team

- Oleg Ivanov, Acting Section Head, Public Safety and Protection, Ministry of Environment
- Doug Edwards, Regional Water Resources Engineer, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Gwyn Graham, Senior Hydrogeologist, Environment Canada
- Nelson Jatel, Water Stewardship Director, Okanagan Basin Water Board

September 14, 2010  
File No. 0700-01

Okanagan Groundwater Monitoring Project  
c/o Okanagan Basin Water Board  
1450 KLO Road  
Kelowna, BC  
V1W 3Z4

Dear Mr. Jatel,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the proposal for the Okanagan Groundwater Monitoring Project (OGMP). The City of Kelowna recognizes the importance of groundwater monitoring and the relationship it has to surface water. This proposal seeks to create 15 new well sites in the valley (1 new one in Kelowna) for monitoring of the groundwater resource Valley-wide. I understand that there are already 3 wells in Kelowna now being monitored and am very concerned regarding the additional costs of new wells that will have very marginal benefit to the City of Kelowna. Although the project is in collaboration with inter-agency partnerships, to ask for our municipality to pay an additional lump sum for another well in addition to the future maintenance, installation and monitoring costs for all the new wells in other jurisdictions (through OBWB funding) seems excessive at this time.

The proposed single well in Kelowna is for monitoring the large UBC Okanagan area aquifer which is currently for the university's main benefit (geothermal). Perhaps, the OGMP could approach UBC Okanagan to partner or at least share their information on this aquifer. There is continuous monitoring already in place and is now being reviewed by Ministry of the Environment through the Provincial Environmental Impact Assessment Process.

The City of Kelowna also has access to a significant amount of data gathered by the Kelowna Joint Water Committee (KJWC) purveyors who depend on groundwater. As well, our 2030 Official Community Plan proposes protection of the aquifer (groundwater protection areas) through landuse planning and recovery of information at time of development. In addition, the KJWC is planning on hiring a student to input borehole-groundwater well data (BITS) to our GIS system next year.

The City of Kelowna will review this project through the OBWB process. While we wish you success in gathering new information, we cannot fund further study and works at this time.

Sincerely,

R. L. (Ron) Mattiussi, MCIP  
City Manager

CC: City Council  
Mark Watt, Manager, Strategic Projects  
Kelowna Joint Water Committee