

VOICE OF THE PROJECT

Supporting the Columbia Basin Project since 1964.



OUR MISSION

Serving as the voice of the Columbia Basin Project – advocating for completion and sustainable maintenance.

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LEAGUE COORDINATES POLICYMAKER TOURS: CELEBRATING OGWRP 47.5 MILESTONE!

Over the past few months, the League scheduled a series of tours for policymakers to learn about the development and impact of the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP).

Facilitated by the League, in August Congressman Dan Newhouse and staff; Adams County Commissioners Dan Blankenship, Jay Weise, and Terry Thompson; and State Legislators Representative Alex Ybarra and Skyler Rude toured the EL 47.5 pump station and surrounding features led by East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) Manager Craig Simpson and Development Director Jed Crowther. League Executive Director Vicky Scharlau, Deputy Director, Sara Higgins, and Director of Government Affairs, Mike Schwisow co-hosted.

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"League Coordinates Policymaker Tours" continued from page 1



Photos clockwise from top left: Congressman Dan Newhouse with ECBID leadership. Vicky Scharlau and Sara Higgins, CBDL. Representative Skyler Rude and Representative Ybarra with Project stakeholders. Adam Co Commissioners and Mike Schwisow listen to Craig Simpson discuss project details.

The completion of the EL 7.5 pump station marks a defining milestone not just for the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP), but for the greater Columbia Basin Project. The decline of groundwater in the Odessa area is threatening the environment, local economy, and individual livelihoods in over a dozen rural communities that rely on the same water farmers currently use to irrigate crops. The goal of OGWRP is to reserve limited groundwater supplies for environmental and municipal needs by providing a reliable, long-term irrigation water supply. OGWRP is an aquifer rescue mission. The first water delivery of the EL 47.5 pump station showcases the progress that can be made when federal, state, local, and individual stakeholder interests unite under a common goal.

The EL 47.5 delivery system, named for the number of miles it is located from the start of East Low Canal, currently replaces 8,521 acres on deep-well pumping from the Odessa Aquifer and transitions those acres to reliable Columbia Basin Project irrigation water supply. Reducing groundwater depletion by up to 73 million gallons per day, this milestone is significant not only because it removes pressure off the

declining aquifer, but it is fulfilling a federal promise for water made decades ago. State Representative Mary Dye shared: *"The opening of this new pumping station is a significant milestone in our long-term efforts to supply enough water to preserve our local farms and the jobs they provide, and save nearly 30 communities that rely on the Odessa Subarea Aquifer for drinking water."* (Source: iFiberOne)

In addition to the EL 47.5 pump station, other completed OGWRP projects include: Weber Coulee Siphon, Weber Branch Siphon, Lind Coulee #1 Siphon, Lind Coulee #2 Siphon, Warden Siphon, Lind Coulee 1 Radial Gate, Lind Coulee Waste Water Radial Gate, Liesle and Calloway Bridges, East Low Canal Widening, Kansas Prairie 1 Siphon, and Kansas Prairie 2 Siphon. The League's recent tours included stops at some of some of these project accomplishments, too.

Continuing advocacy and outreach efforts, upcoming tours coordinated by the League include a September tour for Senator Murray's in-state staff, an October tour for Grant County Commissioners Stone, Jones, and Carter, and more, pending.

IRRIGATION DISTRICTS TAKE ON UPDATE OF COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT

Submitted by: John O’Callaghan, Secretary/Manager, South Columbia Basin Irrigation District

In August, following a Request for Proposal, the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District (SCBID), acting as lead agency for the East, Quincy, and South Columbia Basin Irrigation Districts, contracted Highland Economics to conduct an updated economic impact study on the full extent of the Columbia Basin Project.

Since the last economic study was completed in 2009 by Entrix, Inc. – over a decade ago – an updated economic study is necessary to reevaluate the broad impact of agricultural commodities, direct and secondary labor, local vendors, national and global suppliers and consumers, and state and local tax revenues.

This study began in August 2021, and is expected to be completed in March 2022. Its outcomes will show the value of the relationship between the production of irrigated agriculture in the Columbia Basin Project and the impact on local, state, and national economies. Additionally, the study will quantify traditional salary and vendor impacts. The study will also include the tax impacts on all sectors of government, as well as the value of Columbia Basin Project such as outdoor recreation, community development and farm labor.

Specific deliverables of this project include:

- Regional socioeconomic conditions and agricultural profile.
- Contrast of agricultural & economic conditions in CBP irrigated lands versus dryland farming lands.
- Direct & secondary economic impacts of CBP irrigated agriculture on jobs, income, and output on local, state, and national economies.
- Direct & secondary economic impacts of recreation associated with CBP-related irrigation facilities on jobs, income, and output on local, state, and national economies.
- Fiscal impacts (taxes) of CBP for local, state, and national governments.
- Rural economic prosperity and community development benefits of CBP irrigation.

A summary of outcomes will be published Spring 2022.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JOIN LEAGUE’S 57TH ANNUAL MEETING VIRTUALLY

The League is virtually sharing updates on Columbia Basin Project issues as well as hosting special guest keynote speaker, USBR Columbia-Pacific Northwest Regional Director, Lorri Gray. The outcomes of board elections and a brief review the League’s financial standing will also be announced at this year’s annual meeting.

Registration opens September 9. More information will be available on League’s website at www.cbdl.org.

EVENT DETAILS:

Thursday, November 4, 2021
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Virtual - Zoom Platform
Early Bird Cost: \$25

You must register to receive both the internet link and password needed to join. Members and non-members are both invited, but only members may weigh in on Board’s decisions.

LEAGUE ADVOCATED LOUDLY LAST QUARTER AND CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES RESPONDED

“Earmarks” Update and FY22 Appropriations

Early this year, the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate developed a process to identify and fund local projects. Essentially, the process resembled what was known in the past as “earmarks”; however, it included additional restrictions and requirements. Community engagement and support were crucial in determining which projects are worthy of federal funding. Only projects with demonstrated community support are considered.

efforts to secure funding, working with the League to clarify needed information in a short-turnaround time: *\$2 million for OGWRP was included in the House’s Energy and Water Development Subcommittee mark up.*

The progress to that point took weeks of reminders to stakeholders, calls, emails, and letters with Congressional offices, Reclamation, Ecology’s Office of the Columbia River, and the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District to coordinate details.

In July, the House cleared a \$600 billion

An earlier League appropriation request included funding for SCADA—used for monitoring all Columbia Basin Project irrigation system and controlling automated components of its infrastructure. Some components and technology are outdated and need updating to ensure compliance with Federal Information Security Management Act requirements and maintain smooth operations associated with adjusting flow rates in canals, responding to hydropower plant and pump outages, monitoring canal levels, and managing three project reservoirs.

Water Infrastructure Bill Introduced; League Proposes Amendment

In mid-July, a new bill was introduced, the Energy Infrastructure Act, providing significant funding for Reclamation projects. The bill addressed funds for agricultural water infrastructure (a priority of the League) but did not account for the unique nature of the water source exchange/replacement design of OGWRP. With few similar projects in the west, it has been difficult to qualify OGWRP for funding from “traditional” federal programs because it does not meet “traditional” criteria.

The League worked with Senator Cantwell’s office to identify possible avenues to help OGWRP qualify, and ultimately, Senator Cantwell included OGWRP-friendly language in Section 40910 under Title IX of the broader bipartisan infrastructure package that passed the Senate in August. Both Senator Cantwell and Senator Murray were supportive.

Provisions of the bill relevant to the Columbia Basin Project include:

IN MID-JULY, A NEW BILL WAS INTRODUCED, THE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE ACT, PROVIDING SIGNIFICANT FUNDING FOR RECLAMATION PROJECTS.

In response, the League submitted requests for \$2 million for the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP) to Representatives Newhouse and McMorris Rodgers as well as Senators Cantwell and Murray which were accepted and forwarded to appropriation subcommittees. Senator Murray is a senior member of the appropriations committee and also serves on the energy and water development subcommittee. To ensure community support was clearly demonstrated, the League secured dozens of letters from stakeholders.

Congressman Newhouse’s office championed

package of seven spending bills, including the FY2022 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies funding bill that includes \$53 billion for funding the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Energy, and other federal agencies.

Thanks to a huge push by the League and stakeholders throughout the Columbia Basin Project, the House bill included both the \$2 million for OGWRP and report language directing Reclamation support OGWRP and the CBP’s Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA).

Water related funding:

—\$8.3 billion for Bureau of Reclamation western water (Title IX)

- \$3.2 billion for Reclamation Aging Infrastructure (including \$2.2 billion for the revolving account)
- \$1.15 billion for Reclamation water storage, groundwater storage and conveyance projects
- \$1 billion for water recycling and reuse
- \$250 million for desalinization
- \$1 billion for rural water
- \$500 million for dam safety
- \$300 million for Drought Contingency Plan
- \$100 million for cooperative watershed management
- \$250 for Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration
- \$100 million -benefit watershed projects
- \$50 million for CO River fish recovery programs

—\$9.5 billion for US Army Corps of Engineers

Other funding measures:

—\$110 billion in new funds for roads, bridges, and major projects

- Bridge Grant Program: \$3.265 billion
 - » Establishes a new competitive grant program to assist state, local, federal, and tribal entities in rehabilitating or replacing bridges, including culverts
 - » The minimum grant amount for a large project is not less than \$50 million; the minimum grant amount for any other eligible project is \$2.5 million
 - » Grant amounts, in combination with other anticipated funds, should be of a size sufficient to enable the project to proceed through completion

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

LEAGUE BOARD OF TRUSTEES!

Interested in joining the Board of Trustees?

The Board represents the Columbia Basin Project community and governs the League on behalf of its stakeholders. Individual board members are charged with participating as part of the board team to sustainably continue the advocacy and outreach work of the League. Board members bring individual perspective to decision-making and currently meet on a quarterly basis. While the current focus of the League is completion of OGWRP, Columbia Basin Project completion remains the long-term goal of the League.

If interested, please email Vicky Scharlau at vicky@cddl.org.

ARE YOU A LEAGUE MEMBER?

JOIN OR RENEW TODAY AND BE RECOGNIZED CHAMPION OF THE COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT

The League has been representing stakeholders at events, generating awareness of the Project, and planning future opportunities to advocate for the Project. There is no question membership dollars are being put to great use. With your help, the League will continue a focused effort to advocate for policies that support the Columbia Basin Project and continued, incremental development of our communities.

Not yet a member? Consider joining – it is never too late! Visit cddl.org.

For those who are members, the League appreciates your continuation of the legacy!

A TOAST TO DAVE SOLEM: HONORING A DECADE OF SERVICE CHAMPIONING THE COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT



After spending the past 11 years as Secretary/Manager of the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District (SCBID) and 28 years with Klamath Irrigation District in Oregon, Dave Solem decided it was time to pass the baton and move on to new adventures.

Dave shared the following in a letter to the League:

“My time at the South District has been great. First and foremost, I have enjoyed working with so many knowledgeable, dedicated people. I will miss the staff and Board members, as they have become good friends, and I want to thank them for all that they have done for me and my wife Julie. Thank you to past staff members as well, as all have contributed to the success of SCBID.

My first job at Klamath Irrigation District, after graduating from Iowa State University with a degree in Forestry, was as the district’s Assistant Engineer. As Darvin Fales, Columbia Basin Hydropower Manager, put it, “It didn’t take long for the district to figure out Solem was no engineer, so they made him the manager.” Managing in the Klamath Project

was challenging, with short water supplies and 100-year-old infrastructure. In 2001, water was not available for farmers except for a small quantity in July due to ESA restrictions.

I came to SCBID and the Columbia Basin Project in 2010. What a difference when it came to water supply! I took over from Shannon McDaniel, who had done a tremendous job managing the South District. I soon met Craig Simpson and Darvin Fales, managers at East Columbia Basin Irrigation District and Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation District. I cannot say enough about them. They taught me the workings of the Columbia Basin Project.

SCBID has accomplished a lot in the past 11 years. Board members Maury Balcom, Bryan Alford, JJ Danz, Dick Conrad, and Charlie Lyall have been very instrumental in moving the District forward. Some of the accomplishments are: complete electrical control and transformer upgrades at 7 major pumping plants; concrete lining in a 3300 lineal-foot section of the Potholes East Canal; Scooteney to Saddle Gap, and Eagle Lake to WB1 and WB2 powerline replacements; new watermaster office at Wahluke; new fuel tanks and pumps at Mattawa and Mesa watermaster yards; new pumping plant (PPL1.6) in the Esquatzel Diversion Canal; and new facility maintenance building in Pasco. Seizing an opportunity to meet on-site with Reclamation Deputy Commissioner Alan Mikkelsen in 2017, the District secured a commitment from Reclamation to address a long-standing deficiency in the construction of Block 1 infrastructure. No operational wasteway returning to the Columbia River had ever been constructed by Reclamation for that portion of the Pasco Pump Lateral serving the PPL6.2 pumping plant. This deficiency was acknowledged and worked on for over 30 years

with no resolution. This work ultimately resulted in the new PPL5.8 Wasteway, constructed and paid for by Reclamation at a cost of over \$7 million, thereby securing the safe operation of the Pasco Pump Lateral in the face of rapid urbanization. In addition, equipment required to maintain the canals and wasteways has undergone a systematic upgrade, resulting in a reliable fleet.

The Columbia Basin Project has a great support team with the Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia Basin Hydropower, Columbia Basin Development League, Washington State Water Resources Association, National Water Resources Association, Family Farm Alliance, farmers, and others working to keep reliable, affordable water flowing to farms. It is a team effort and I have to say I have enjoyed being around this team.

I am now moving on to spend more time with my family and friends. I like to hunt and fish, work on my house and yard, and woodworking. I have a boat and RV and look forward to using them more. I have 9 grandchildren, 6 sisters and 1000 places that I want to see. It is time to get busy, I have a long bucket list. Thanks again for a great job and the opportunity to work with great people.”

Dave left at the end of June and John O’Callaghan stepped into the leadership role in July. The League is looking forward to continue its partnership with SCBID under John’s leadership.

The Columbia Basin Development League thanks Dave for his steadfast service championing the Columbia Basin Project and its future development!

AMPLIFYING THE VOICE OF THE COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT

The League's job – our sole purpose – is to give voice to and protect the Columbia Basin Project. We need voices loud enough for our federal leaders to hear our calls to modernize water supply infrastructure NOW. The League is pushing for a solution: writing editorials, sending letters, making phone calls, flying to DC, driving to Olympia — all to get attention focused on helping our neighbors, our farmers, and our friends. Together, we need to fix the problem of a depleting aquifer and get the Columbia Basin Project completed to provide farmers the water they have waited decades to receive. Thousands depend on it. Business leaders, civic and economic groups, farmers, processors, elected officials, and individuals recognize what we stand to lose. We are pushing hard and making noise.

“But it's not enough. Wells are already going dry. We need to push harder, and be louder. Water for thousands is at risk. We are losing what we have assumed to be safe, secure and sustainable: our water.”

—Vicky Scharlau, Executive Director, Columbia Basin Development League

Our goal is to raise \$125,000 per year over the next five years. The League's members, partners, and donors have always been critical support to the development and continuation of the Columbia Basin Project. Now, for the first time in League's history, we are applying for grants that will support the launch of a detailed education and outreach plan to increase engagement in coalitions, in-person meetings with influencers, more media coverage, development and distribution of targeted advocacy materials, and more.

Separate from ongoing advocacy work, the combined effort of your continued membership and new grant revenue will allow us to:

1. CONNECT MORE CITIZENS TO THE CAUSE

- Increase outreach and relationships with media, cities and towns, ports, and counties
- Invite local voices so every community can be heard
- Equip local supporters for intentional action to influence policy change

2. PUSH MORE STATE SUPPORT

- Expand state legislative support beyond Columbia Basin Project districts

3. FIND MORE FEDERAL SUPPORT

- Engage state legislators to use their voices for support in DC
- Find federal officials to champion our efforts
- Expand federal network beyond the Washington Congressional delegation
- Expand awareness to executive branch, Department of Interior, and national coalitions

It is expected that notice of grant awards will begin in October.

EAST COLUMBIA BASIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT REPORTS RECORD WATER USAGE

Sustained hot temperatures brought record water usage this year. The East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) reports July water deliveries were 68,495 sfd (135,826 acre ft), marking 112% of the 2016-2021, 5-year average.

In addition, the total 2021 irrigation season deliveries through July are recorded at 210,111 sfd (416,650 acre ft) which is 125% of the 2016-2020 5-year average. Similar to May and June, this is the highest delivery through July since 1969.

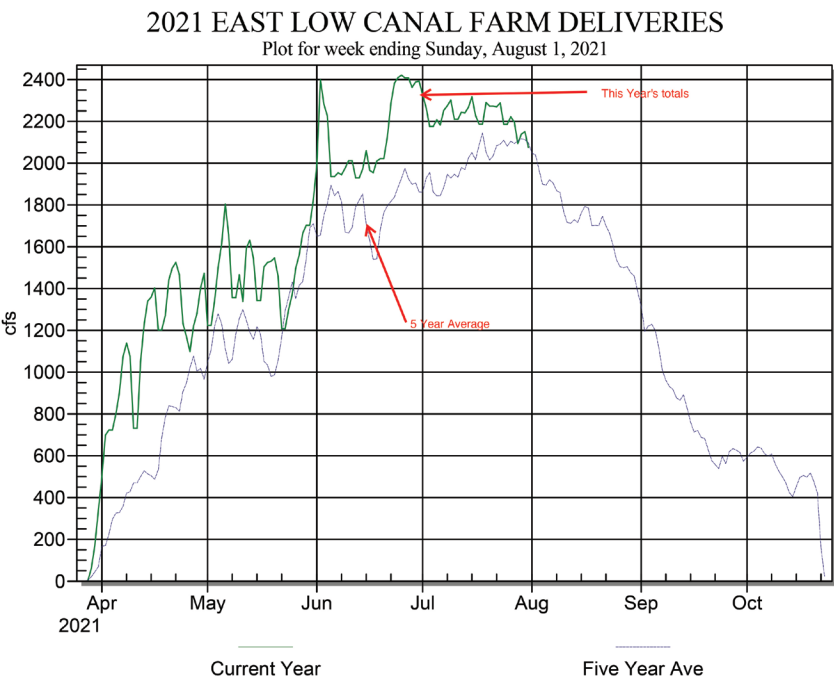
“The hot temperatures have brought high levels of sustained usage and we’ve been able to continue to meet demand,” explained Jon Erickson, Project Manager for ECBID. “The image of the canal depicts the current canal level. Normally, we would be flowing 5-8’ below this level, but due to the on-going demand, we are running at full capacity while feeding Potholes Reservoir.”

Additionally, ECBID increased acreage by 5.4% this year with the addition of the EL 47.5 Delivery System for Odessa groundwater replacement.



For reference:

1 second foot day (sfd) = 1.983 Acre Foot
1 Acre Foot = 43,560 cubic feet or 325,900 gallons (=1 foot of water on one acre of land)



HOMESTEAD PUMPING PLANT: MEETING WATER SUPPLY DEMAND IN COLUMBIA BASIN

By: Roger Sonnichsen, Secretary-Manager, Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation District

This 2021 irrigation season developed into the hottest year on record in Central Washington. The hottest recorded temperature occurred in Ephrata, Washington on June 29 at 116° F; June and July were five to nine degrees above average. These extreme temperatures resulted in extended peak irrigation demands. The West Canal operated at peak throughout June and July.

This peak operation refocused the need to solve the West Canal capacity issue around mile 20 located in Ephrata. The West Canal’s original design had a normal design limit established, with an additional 10% over normal capacity design. Operation of the West Canal in prior years resulted in limited use of the 10% over normal capacity for only a few days up to a couple weeks. With the increased temperatures and duration this year, the West Canal operated within this space for over two months.

The Homestead Pumping Plant was originally proposed by Reclamation in 1955 to supplement the supply of the West Canal if later Project development overtaxed canal capacity. This proposal was part of the plan to serve lands in Block 88 and Block 881 via the West Canal in lieu of another proposed canal, the Potholes West Canal. In 1973, Reclamation also considered the proposed Homestead Pumping Plant as a source of water to serve deferred and by-passed areas of the Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation District (QCBID).

Homestead Pumping Plant was proposed at the confluence of the W645 Drain and the Frenchman Hills Wasteway. Water would be pumped from these channels into the West Canal for irrigation of Project lands downstream of West Canal mile 61. Utilization of this water would reduce the amount of water passing through the Ephrata section at mile 20. A Homestead Pumping Plant would allow the West Canal flow to be within normal capacity elevations.

The Homestead Pumping Plant, if sized to pump 200cfs, would meet the demand of the current developed lands allowing normal capacity operation. A pump plant of this size is estimated to cost \$10,000,000. A Homestead Pumping Plant could be sized to provide water to deferred



General location of proposed Homestead Pumping Plant at the confluence of the W645 Drain and Frenchman Hills Wasteway.

and bypassed lands completing the development of lands within QCBID. A Homestead Pumping Plant sized to pump 400cfs to meet current and additional demand is estimated to cost \$15,000,000. QCBID’s next steps are to have dialogs with Reclamation about the best way to work toward implementation of this project and to begin committing funds for initial engineering studies once this path is determined.

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Ephrata Chamber of Commerce
Grand Coulee Dam Area
Chamber of Commerce
Greater Connell Area Chamber of
Commerce
Greater Othello Chamber of
Commerce
Greater Spokane Incorporated
Lind Chamber of Commerce
Moses Lake Chamber of
Commerce
Odessa Chamber of Commerce
Othello Chamber of Commerce
Pasco Chamber of Commerce
Quincy Valley Chamber of
Commerce
Ritzville Area Chamber of
Commerce
Royal City Chamber of Commerce
Soap Lake Chamber of
Commerce
Wenatchee Valley Chamber of
Commerce