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# MUNICIPAL WATER ISSUES AND CBSWC ROLE

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CBSWC, Board Member and Vice-Chair



# Regional Water Situation

- ▷ Three distinct groundwater sources
- ▷ Levels have been dropping since 1950's
- ▷ Each water system knew their situation
- ▷ Columbia Basin GWMA formed in 1998 to address nitrate concentrations
- ▷ Mission morphed into addressing declining groundwater levels
- ▷ Clear that source was not sustainable
- ▷ State DOE not going to do anything
- ▷ Water systems need to look for other options



# CBSWC HISTORY

2016 – DOH begins Mid-Columbia Basin Data Collection and Technical Assistance Project

2017 – Interagency agreement between DOH and Commerce (Small Communities Initiative) to provide facilitation and begin coalition building

2019 – Mid-Columbia Resiliency Coordination Final Report

2022 – WaterSmart grant funding for facilitation through BoR and start groundwater monitoring



# CBSWC VISION AND MISSION

**VISION** – To protect and maintain a water supply for present and future generations of the Columbia Basin.

**MISSION** – Address potable groundwater supply issues by creating locally driven recommendations that influence water management and policy that will direct resources to create sustainable water solutions



# CBSWC GOALS

1. Create a sustainable organization to address municipal/small community water system groundwater decline based on localized conditions.
2. Generate awareness and create calls to action for the depletion of potable water in the Basin, the urgent need to address the situation, and the efforts of the Coalition.
3. Lead the development of regional groundwater planning and the identification and promotion of new and/or alternative water sources.



# CBSWC ORGANIZATION

The Coalition Board consists of thirteen (13) members from the following

- Conservation Districts
- County Commissioners
- City Water Purveyors
- Private Group A and B Water Systems
- Private Citizens

Membership is open to any person residing in Washington, any entity operating in the FLAG counties, and any state or federal elected official, agency, department, or staff person.



# CBSWC MEETINGS

Monthly Board Meetings – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month

Bi-monthly Stakeholder Meetings (Odd months) with presentations to inform and educate members on issues addressing the goals of the Coalition. Past topics include:

- Aquifer Storage & Recovery (ASR)
- Centralized Treatment and Distribution
- Integrated Planning
- Purveyor Roundtable
- M&I Water/OGWRP
- Reclaimed/Reuse Water



# CBSWC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Established By-Laws
- Created a website
- Purveyor Profiles— 9 water systems
- Well monitoring
- Working to make CBGWMA information accessible
  - Identified and prioritized projects need to address declining groundwater levels including:
    - OGWRP and
    - Completion of the East High Canal





# CONCLUSIONS

- Deep groundwater wells not sustainable.
- Potable groundwater will be gone long before ag pumping becomes non-viable.
- Water systems need to explore alternative sources to diversify their supply portfolio.
- The completion of the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project and the elimination of agricultural pumping is the only possible solution to address declining levels and the survival of this region.
- This issue affects everyone, and the message is stronger with a united voice from all who could benefit.



# Any questions?

## Contact information

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