

# Sewerage Facilities Assistance Grants: 2024 Program Updates and New Funding Opportunities



*Okanagan Basin*  
WATER BOARD

08 August, 2024, 1:00 – 2:30

# Sewerage Facilities Assistance Grants: 2024 Program Updates and New Funding Opportunities

## Information session and Q&A for Okanagan Local Governments

Presentation 1: New funding opportunities for lots created prior to 2007, new funding for the development of Liquid Waste Management Plans, updates to the 1.0 Hectare Policy, and how to apply to the program. James Littlely, Deputy Administrator, OBWB.

Presentation 2: Provincial infrastructure grants and the 1.0 Hectare Policy. Madelaine Martin, Director, Local Government Infrastructure and Engineering, Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

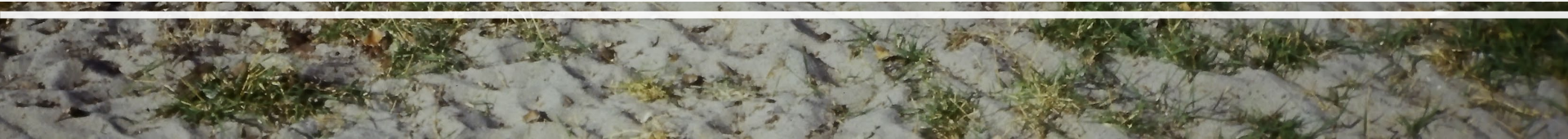
Presentation 3: Understanding Liquid Waste Management Plans and provincial guidelines for approval. Cassandra Counce, Director, Communities, IPM and AgriFood Authorizations, Ministry of Environment.

Q&A





Why the SFA program?





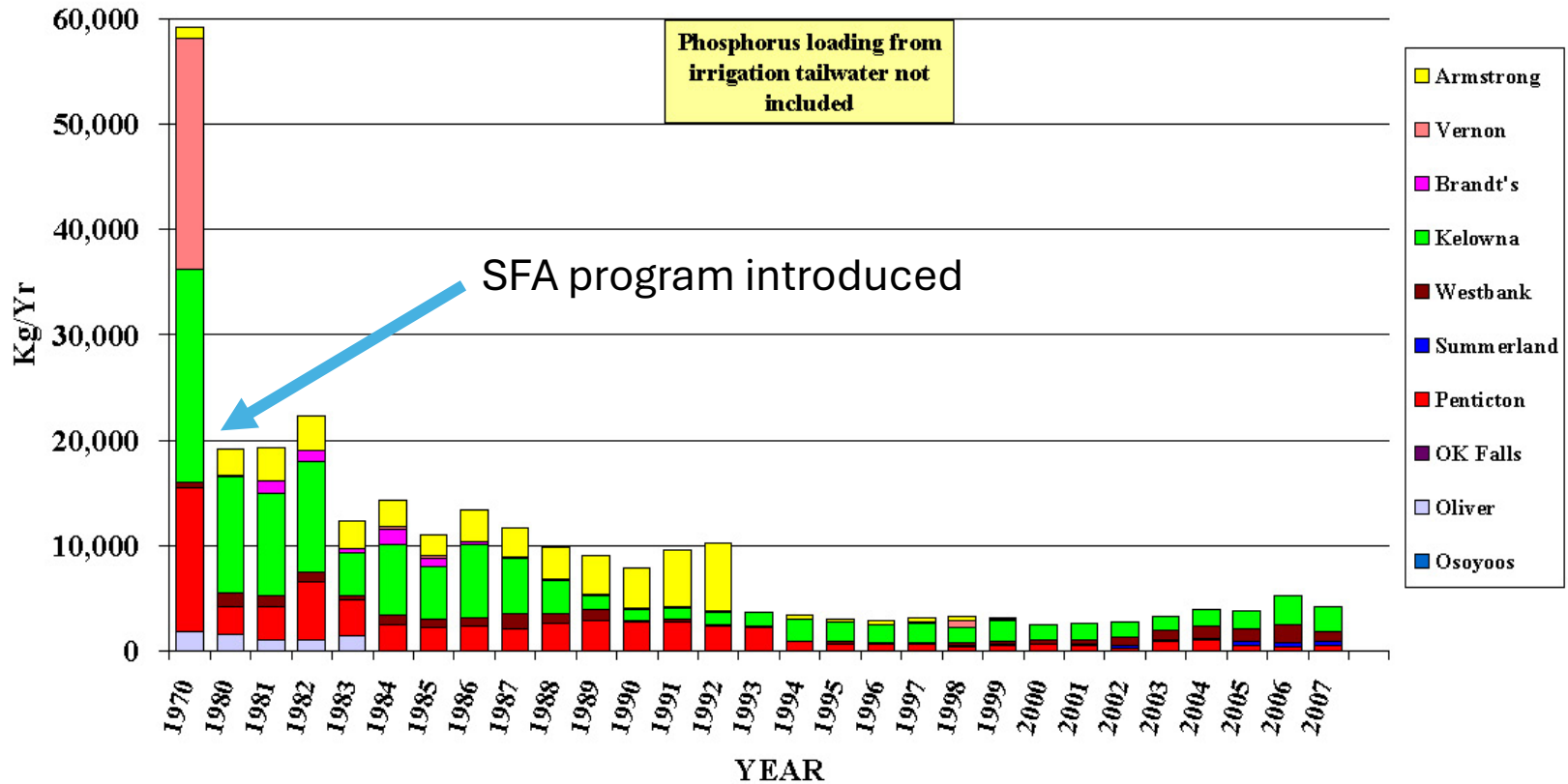
# Sewerage Facilities Assistance (SFA) Grants

OBWB is a unique partnership between the three Okanagan regional districts established in 1970 under Supplementary Letters Patent.

Starting in 1976, all areas and municipalities within the Okanagan Basin contribute to the cost of upgrading sewage facilities to reduce nutrient loading and protect Okanagan water and community health.

Since 1976, \$72 million paid to Okanagan local governments for sewer upgrades through SFA program – fulfills matching grant requirements for senior government grants.

# MUNICIPAL PHOSPHORUS LOAD



# 2022-2024 Program Review

- Considered all Terms of Reference, including payment amounts, eligibility, fairness, compliance, WATER QUALITY
- Considered alignment with provincial and federal and wastewater policy, and new housing policy
- OBWB, LG staff, IHA, Muni, Consultants

# Eligibility – No Change

- Local governments (including electoral areas) within the Okanagan Basin
- First Nations within Okanagan Basin who have sewer service agreements with eligible LGs
- Facilities must meet provincial and federal regulatory requirements



# Eligibility: 1.0 Hectare Policy

To be eligible for SFA grants, communities must have policies or bylaws in place that:

- Require connection to a sewer system provided **as a service by a municipality or regional district** to all lots less than 1.0 hectare
- Also prohibit accessory dwellings on lots less than 1.0 hectare unless connected...
- Decommission existing on-site systems (including septic) on lots once connected...

as a service by a municipality or regional district

# The 1.0 Hectare Policy: Why?

- Where a Liquid Waste Management Plan is not in place as an alternative:
  - In 90% of cases, 1.0 hectare of land is sufficient to attenuate groundwater pollution (keeps it on site and doesn't allow human feces into community water)
  - Where septic systems fail, generally provides sufficient room to replace septic tank and field (if that land is not covered by an accessory dwelling)
  - Generally allows septic to be sited far enough from water sources

# What about new septic?

- New systems are great until they're not...
- What bylaws and policies do you have in place to enforce septic maintenance? (LWMP?)
- What funds/reserves do you have to clean up failed septic if the homeowner can't afford it? (LWMP?)
- Type II systems require more regular maintenance, even if they don't need to be pumped as often.

# What about private systems?

- Private systems are great until they're not... (LWMP?)
- What bylaws and policies do you have in place to enforce private system maintenance? (LWMP?)
- What funds/reserves do you have to clean up failed private systems if the strata/developer can't afford it? (LWMP?)

# TOR Compared

- Pay 16% of eligible project costs for construction/upgrading of sewer treatment plants and sewer pipes to neighbourhoods
- All lots created prior to 1978 eligible for grants
- All lots created prior to 2007 eligible for grants
- No other funding
- Pay lesser of 16% or \$90,000 for the creation or updating of provincially-approved Liquid Waste Management Plan

# Process to apply for funds

- Notify OBWB by August 15, the year before project completion
  - Provide an estimated project budget
  - Allows OBWB to calculate and budget the funds
- For sewer grants, apply to OBWB when project is complete or debt payments commence
  - Paid back with interest over 20 or 25 years (tied to Municipal Finance Authority rates)
  - Same rate and interest whether borrowed or self-financed
- For LWMP apply when you receive provincial approval
  - For LWMPs, paid back over 3 years, max \$30,000/year

# Process to Receive Funds

- Annual Report – Every year of funding, certify eligibility without variance (CAO or CFO)
- Recalculate annual grants as needed based on interest changes (usually every 5 or 10 years on any grant)
- After Annual Report, send OBWB an invoice for August 1 and December 1 every year for the life of the grant.





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## OBWB SFA Grants Policy:

James Littley, Deputy Administrator, Okanagan Basin Water Board

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## Provincial Infrastructure:

Madelaine Martin, Director, Local Government Infrastructure and Engineering,

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## Liquid Waste Management Plans:

Cassandra Caunce, Director, Communities, IPM & Agrifood, Ministry of

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## OBWB SFA Grants Administration:

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