

## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

### Fact Sheet – Olalla Water System

September 11, 2025



#### System Overview:

- Established: Bylaw No. 1690 (1996)
- Well Drilled: March 1998, depth 155 ft
- Aquifer: #935 – 5.2 km<sup>2</sup> confined sand & gravel
- Connections: 226 (residential, irrigation, commercial)
- Classification: Small Water System (<500 people)
- Infrastructure:
  - One (1) deep groundwater well
  - Elevated reservoir (385 m<sup>3</sup> capacity)
  - 16 km of water mains
  - Time to empty reservoir: 6.3 hours

#### Water Usage:

Licensed Allocation: 250,000 m<sup>3</sup>/year

#### Water Quality and Safety:

##### Regulatory Oversight

- Governed by the [Drinking Water Protection Act & Regulation](#)
- Administered by the BC Ministry of Health
- Monitored by Interior Health Authority

##### Bacteria Monitoring

- Total Coliforms: Indicator of water quality changes
- Background Bacteria: Reflect system health
- E. coli & Fecal Coliforms: No positive results to date

#### Timeline of Events

##### Summer/Fall 2024

- First coliform counts in July
- Temporary chlorination & system flushing
- Sampling at 3 stations

##### Spring 2025

- Expanded sampling to 5 sites
- Boil Water Notice issued
- Continued chlorination for testing accuracy
- Full system investigation: well, reservoir (ROV), backup source
- No contamination sources found



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# Universal Water Meter Pilot Project

## Why Now?

- Climate pressures: longer growing seasons, hotter summers
- Metering reduces residential use by ~30%
- \$2 million grant for Olalla, Willowbrook, and Faulder

## Benefits

- Real-time leak detection & usage monitoring
- Improved system efficiency
- Tiered billing to encourage conservation
- 12-month mock billing period for user adjustment

## Next Steps

- Cost analysis for each system
- Mock bills with detailed consumption data
- User training on portal features

## Water Conservation & Restrictions

### RDOS Water Systems

- Manages 10 small systems
- Governed by [Water Use Regulation Bylaw No. 2824 \(2019\)](#)

## Drought Management

- [BC Drought Portal](#) updates weekly
- Restriction stages based on:
  - Snowpack, precipitation, groundwater recharge
  - Infrastructure limits, water quality, demand
- Even/Odd Address Watering Schedule
  - Community signage and online updates during drought progression

## Additional Resources

- [rdos.bc.ca](#) [Programs & Services > Water > Olalla Water System]
- [rdosregionalconnections.ca](#) [Water Conservation]
- [Voyent Alert! notifications](#) [Take Action]
- [droughtportal.gov.bc.ca](#) [Access Current Drought Conditions]

For further information, please visit the Olalla Water System web page at [rdos.bc.ca](#) or contact RDOS Communications.

## RDOS Communications

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Olalla Water System  
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