



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN**  
**PRESS RELEASE**  
**April 15, 2008**

Faulder Water System

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The Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen is reporting that water levels in the Faulder Water System aquifer continue to drop in spite of the recent efforts to revitalize the well.

Staff members are working with Golder and Associates and Associated Engineering to determine why there is a problem. The low levels we've seen in the Meadow Valley aquifer in Faulder may indicate a global problem with the aquifer. Residents outside of the Faulder Water System may be experiencing problems as well. It is possible that the shortages of water that we are seeing now relate to the drought year of 2003 where very little snow pack was present.

The RDOS conducted a water study in 2005 on the Meadow Valley aquifer systems which indicated plenty of capacity in the aquifer. The water levels in the Faulder well have been monitored since 2006. The Faulder Water System has been operating since 1993. There are typical yearly cycles for drawdown and recharge of an aquifer which is affected by snow melt and runoff. In 2007 we did not see a recharge of the aquifer, only a steady decline. If we do not see a recharge of the aquifer this spring then additional measures will be required in order to ensure a continuous water supply for the community. We should know by the middle of June whether or not the Meadow Valley aquifer has recharged sufficiently for the 2008/2009 year.

This week, water restrictions were placed on the 79 residents on the system to reduce water consumption and ultimately the pumping rate. This measure will reduce the risk of the pump and well failing as aquifer levels continue to drop. We will remove these restrictions once we see that the water levels in the aquifer are being restored.

The RDOS staff, consultants and professional hydrogeologists are working together to clarify the extent of this problem and identify measures necessary to secure a continuous water supply. These include dating the water in the aquifer to determine the extent and health of the aquifer and developing a short term strategy for the water supply this summer should we find that the aquifer is unlikely to recharge. We should start to see improved aquifer levels in early May if there is going to be a recharge in 2008.

Once we have a better understanding of the extent of the problem and possible solutions, we will host a public meeting to review our findings.

Please contact Pat Hickerson, Public Works Manager at the RDOS at (250) 490-4103 should you have further questions or concerns.

*"Dan Ashton"*

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D. Ashton  
RDOS Board Chair

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