



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

RESIDENT NOTIFICATION

April 27, 2026

Potential well testing on Aquifer #264 McLean Creek Bench – Electoral Area “D” (Okanagan Falls)

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) is sharing an update on the status of potential groundwater well testing on Aquifer #264, located on the McLean Creek Bench in Electoral Area “D”.

The RDOS is working with the Province of British Columbia and a qualified hydrogeological consultant to determine the requirements for testing of the existing well on Aquifer #264. The purpose of the test is to assess water availability, quality, and flow rates of the existing well.

If approved by the province, the pump test of the well would take place over a maximum of 48-72 hours as directed by the province and would not impact the water supply in the area. Shuttlesworth Creek is within proximity to the testing site and would be monitored as required by the province during any potential test.

No new wells will be drilled by the RDOS on Aquifer #264. The RDOS will be testing an existing well, which has an existing groundwater licence.

The intent of the well test is to test the resilience of the aquifer, so the RDOS and province can gather pertinent information on how the aquifer recharges. This information will determine what the impacts of extended pumping (supply to a municipality) would be to not only the aquifer, but also the surrounding wells and creeks. Such a test is considered typical; however, extra care will be taken to monitor the aquifer throughout the area.

Overview:

- The RDOS is currently waiting for feedback from the province on the testing and potential relocation of Okanagan Falls water source point of extraction. There is no current timeline as to when feedback will be received. The RDOS will update existing well owners when information is received.
- The RDOS is evaluating alternatives to ensure the long-term sustainability of the water supply for Okanagan Falls, and this existing well on Aquifer #264 is one of several options.
- The RDOS is looking to test the viability and identify impacts on pre-existing wells of potentially shifting capacity of the wells that supply Okanagan Falls (also on Aquifer #264) to this new well located further upland.
- The RDOS has reached out to well owners within proximity to the testing site to have their wells monitored during the test.
- The RDOS will review the results of the well test with the province and the community to determine the viability of this water source.
- If it is determined from the test that long-term pumping of this well has significant adverse effects on surrounding wells, or if the water is not of sufficient quality, or cannot meet the required flow rates to supply Okanagan Falls, the RDOS would not proceed in exploring this water source.



The RDOS recognizes community concerns about the aquifer's capacity and respects the knowledge and experience of existing well owners who rely on this essential water source. The well test will be conducted scientifically and factually to determine whether the aquifer is a viable water source for the community of Okanagan Falls and to assess any potential impacts on existing wells and the environment.

For further information, please visit rdos.bc.ca/utilities/water-systems or email engineering@rdos.bc.ca

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