



January 12, 2024

Regional District of Central Okanagan
1450 K.L.O. Rd
Kelowna, BC, V1W 3Z4

Attention: Travis Kendel, P.Eng., Acting Director, Engineering Services

Dear Travis:

Re: RDCO Letter of Support Request – OBWB Small Water Grant Application

I am writing to seek a formal Letter-of-Support from the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) for an application that Black Mountain Irrigation District's (BMID) is submitting to the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) under their *Water Conservation & Quality Improvement Grant* program.

To comply with OBWB requirements, grant applicants must secure a Letter-of-Support from the local government with jurisdiction in the project area. BMID is applying for a \$30,000 grant to enhance the operational release efficiency from the Belgo Reservoir. By using telecommunications and remote-control hardware, there would be a 10% increase in efficiencies in controlling water released from Belgo Reservoir.

Automation of releases from Belgo Reservoir is expected to yield notable improvements in drought resilience, water resource management, and for supplying water for EFNs in Lower Mission Creek. Under the Mission Creek Water Use Plan, BMID has agreed to monitor and supply 87% of the minimum natural flow in lower Mission Creek. There is a 12-hour delay in water travel time from Belgo Reservoir to the BMID intake below 8-Mile Ranch. Round-trip to adjust the Belgo Outlet gate takes 3 hours. By aligning streamflow release adjustments in Mission Creek with the real-time water demand, BMID anticipates achieving conservation savings of 500 ML annually. This makes the creek more resilient to withstand periods of drought. The construction value of 500 ML of upper watershed reservoir storage is in the range of \$1,000,000. The project that BMID is proposing will cost \$75,000 and will achieve the same benefit. A \$30,000 grant is being applied for from the OBWB small water grants program. This project will benefit both water users and conservation objectives for Mission Creek for the foreseeable future.

BMID kindly seeks the RDCO's support for this application. Attached is a document outlining the OBWB's requirements for Letters-of-Support from the local government (RDCO). The requested letter must be signed by either an Officer or the Chairperson of RDCO.

Thank you for considering our request. Should you have any inquiries regarding BMID's project or the OBWB's program requirements, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Black Mountain Irrigation District

Robert J. Hrasko,
Administrator