



CITY OF OTHELLO

WATER PURVEYOR PROFILE

The City of Othello's water system relies primarily on groundwater wells. All of these wells are experiencing declining water levels and reduced production. The city is pursuing options to use Columbia Basin Project water to supply a separate irrigation system, as a source for ASR, and for treatment to potable water standards.



MAJOR ISSUES

- Declining Aquifer Levels
- Reduced Well Production
- Well Extension is a Nonviable Option
- Insufficient Funding for Alternative Water Sources and Infrastructure

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

- Funding for design of new infrastructure
- Water sources for ASR
- Non-potable water sources for irrigation use in the city

The City is pursuing design funds for a 3 mgd water treatment plant to filter canal water for potable uses. Design costs are estimated at \$1.5M and construction at \$15M.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Aquifer Characteristics Limits Next Steps

The City of Othello's water system is supplied by eight wells that are all constructed into the Wanapum aquifer. The declining water levels and production has led city officials to investigate alternative options. Extending well construction down into the Grande Ronde aquifer is not a viable option due to water quality and the requirement for expensive treatment.

To meet the municipal and industrial needs of the community, the city has begun to look for funding opportunities. The city has acquired a state appropriation to start a separate system to provide non-potable water for irrigation in the City's service area. The goal is to reduce the demand for treated, potable water.

As a city whose economy is reliant on agricultural and food processing, it is vital to meet the water needs of residents and businesses. Othello hopes to utilize other water sources for non-potable water to ensure potable water demands are met for the health and safety of all.

WATER SOURCES

9 GROUNDWATER WELLS

*Average Output: 4.5 MGD
Maximum Output: 7,760 GPM
Depth: 747-1,210 ft*

CONCERNS

All attempts to extend well drilling depth have resulted in water with unpleasant and non-drinkable characteristics.

FAST FACTS

Service Population: 9,005 residents
ACWD #1 Water System
Median Income: \$63,824 (2022)
Water Rates: \$39.61 base rate
Additional Rates: Plus, tiered rate system at \$0.91, \$1.04, and \$1.21 per additional 100 cf unit
Growth Rate: < 1.7% per 10 years
Main Industries: Potato Processing, McCain Foods, and Simplot

“ The Othello community is working collaboratively and diligently to find innovative and cost-effective ways to meet the water needs of residents while promoting efficient use and conservation practices. ”

CONTACTS

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