



Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

Lake Wenatchee Water District Water System Consolidation and Improvement



Beautiful communities deserve beautiful water. In 2006 the Chelan County Commissioners established the Lake Wenatchee Water District as a result of a public referendum. The district was created to integrate the water supply and distribution system and to replace the five private community associations providing water along the north shore of Lake Wenatchee. Using loans from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), the district consolidated and improved the smaller water systems, which had struggled with water outages and out-of-compliance sources.

The project was split into two phases. In Phase 1, the smaller water systems consolidated and drilled a new well to replace surface water withdrawal points which risked contamination. The district built new infrastructure as well, including a new 100,000 gallon reservoir and a new pump house. In Phase 2, the district installed more than 80 water meters and replaced more than two miles old, leaking water mains. Together, the changes address issues with the quality and reliability of the area’s water and will reduce costs to water customers.

Preparing for the Future

While the district has more than enough water to meet its current and future needs, the disjointed and aging systems were challenged to consistently provide quality water to a growing population: one system used untreated surface water, another experienced occasional service outages due to a lack of standby supply; water mains had insufficient pressure, risking contamination, and many were made of undesirable materials. Compliance with minimum standards often represented a substantial burden for the individual systems, some of which served fewer than 10 customers.

Funding Source	Amount
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (2011) 50% loan forgiveness	\$ 2,327,135
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (2014) 50% loan forgiveness	\$ 2,548,800
Total budgeted to date	\$ 4,875,935
Lower 1% interest rate saved Lake Wenatchee Water District \$1.3 million over the 20-year loan.	

To provide current and future residents with safe, reliable drinking water, voters decided to create the Lake Wenatchee Water District to consolidate and update these smaller systems. In time, residents can expect to see their water rates drop, thanks to the improved efficiency of the system. By increasing the pumping and storage capacity in the District, and replacing aging components, residents of the district have improved their property values and prepared for the growth that will keep Lake Wenatchee a beautiful, vibrant place to live.

Want to learn more?

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