

# IDAHO-WASHINGTON AQUIFER COLLABORATIVE (IWAC)

**Scope:** Regional/Watershed

**Location:** Idaho and Washington

## SCOPE:

- » IWAC is a collaborative of Idaho and Washington drinking water and reclaimed water purveyors. Rathdrum Prairie Spokane Valley Aquifer (the Aquifer), a drinking water source for over 500,000 people.
- » Collaborative efforts between utilities, government agencies, and nonprofits within Spokane and Spokane Valley to protect the Aquifer.
- » Goal is to facilitate regional dialogues and studies towards stewardship of the Aquifer and Spokane River.

## COLLABORATIVE FORMATION:

- » In 2009, the Idaho Water Resource Board sponsored a 50-year aquifer management plan (CAMP) for the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer (RP-CAMP)
- » An advisory committee comprised of local citizens created the RP-CAMP. One objective of the RP-CAMP was to create a bi-state organization working towards a regional aquifer management approach.
- » IWAC was created out of meetings between utilities, members of the Spokane Aquifer Joint Board (Kaiser, Honeywell Electronic Materials, others), and nonprofits.

## MEMBERS:

A coalition of nineteen water purveyors that protect the Spokane Valley—Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer and 122 underground wells.

- » Carnhope Irrigation District No. 7
- » City of Millwood
- » City of Spokane Water Department
- » Consolidated Irrigation District No. 19
- » East Spokane Water District No. 1
- » Honeywell Electronic Materials
- » Hutchinson Irrigation District No. 16
- » Idaho Water Resource Board (part of Idaho Department of Water Resources)
- » Irvin Water District No. 6
- » Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District No. 1
- » Moab Irrigation District No. 20
- » Model Irrigation District No. 18
- » Modern Electric and Water Co.
- » North Spokane Irrigation District No. 8
- » Orchard Avenue Irrigation District
- » Pasadena Park Irrigation District No. 17

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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- » Spokane Business & Industrial Park
- » Spokane County Water District No. 3
- » Spokane River Forum
- » Trentwood Irrigation District No. 3
- » Vera Water & Power
- » Whitworth Water District No. 2
- » “Ad hoc resource network” of local utilities and government agencies

## **WATER CONCERNS:**

- » Equitable allocation of water for withdrawal by municipal water services
- » Decline of Spokane River in-stream flow
- » Impact of increased population growth and industry on water quality

## **STRATEGIES:**

- » Provide safe, clean drinking water to residents of Spokane, Washington
- » Coordinate efforts and perform and sponsor investigations
- » Provide discussion forums regarding wellhead protection, conservation, and protection of associated Water Rights
- » Members of IWAC may hold regular meetings with their constituent group (a formal caucus); provide copies of IWAC meeting notes to their constituents and request comments; and communicate informally with their constituents.
- » IWAC meetings are open to the public and include two periods for public comment, one at the beginning and one end of each meeting.

## **RESULTS:**

- » Completed a Wellhead Protection Plan
- » Created an extensive website including mission statement, objectives, meeting agendas and minutes, aquifer specifics, education/outreach descriptions, maps, photos, and contact information.