



YEAR IN REVIEW

2025 was another productive year and several key projects advanced in significant ways. We are pleased to report the following:

- Delivered a reliable water supply to landowners consistently throughout the irrigation season.
- First deliveries made on the second OGWRP delivery system- the EL 86.4, which converted 5,426 acres from deep well irrigation to Columbia River surface water. This has eliminated the use of 16 wells; effectively conserving 16,143 acre-feet (5.3 billion gallons) of water annually in the Odessa Subarea Aquifer.
- Hosted OGWRP tour with NRCS Associate Chief Louis Aspey.
- Began construction on the EL 84.7 Delivery System, the third OGWRP system which will service 7,138 acres, and broke ground on the Orman Johnson Pumping Plant.
- Began construction on the EL 80.6 Delivery System, the fourth OGWRP system which will service 5,862 acres, and broke ground on the EL 80.6 Pumping Plant.
- Continued working toward establishing criteria to allocate remaining acres served by the OGWRP system.



- Supported work on the OGWRP watershed planning effort, known as the PL-566. When completed, this plan will assist in obtaining future funding for the design and construction of the OGWRP's remaining large infrastructure projects.
- Signed an MOU with the EL 22.1 landowner group, which successfully secured \$38.5M in state funding.
- ECBID Secretary-Manager completed his 2-year position as the President of the National Water Resources Association (NWRA).
- O&M Assistant Manager Bobby Bischoff was elected to the NWRA Board of Directors and began his participation in the Washington Ag-Forestry Leadership Program.
- ECBID Board of Directors, past and present, received the Perseverance Award at the annual Columbia Basin Development League conference for their continued commitment to the OGWRP.

The 2025 irrigation season has come to a close and it brought several milestones in the continued development of the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program (OGWRP). The EL 86.4 Delivery System made its first deliveries in April and we began construction on the third OGWRP system, the EL 84.7 Delivery System. In October, we celebrated the groundbreaking of the Orman Johnson Pumping Plant, which will serve the EL 84.7 Delivery System. Landowners on the EL 22.1 were successful in securing \$38.5 million from the 2025 Capital Budget, and the District signed an MOU with the group to allow continued progress on this system. And, throughout the year, District staff hosted a number of tours for partners, elected officials, and students.

Your East Columbia Basin Irrigation District team has a number of key initiatives outlined for 2026, and we look forward to continued progress toward delivering reliable water at a sustainable cost for all landowners. I invite you to visit ecbid.org or read on to learn more about the efforts of the ECBID team.

Best,

Craig Simpson
Secretary-Manager,
East Columbia Basin
Irrigation District



Craig N. Simpson
Secretary - Manager

MEET YOUR BOARD

The East Columbia Basin Irrigation District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors responsible for guiding District operations and policies. Current Board members are:

Don Osborne	Division 1	dosborne@ecbid.org
Reid Baker	Division 2	rbaker@ecbid.org
Dennis Swinger	Division 3	dswinger@ecbid.org
Duaine Anderson (President)	Division 4	danderson@ecbid.org
Kevin Lyle	Division 5	klyle@ecbid.org

The Board meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 9:00am unless otherwise changed by the Board. Meetings are held in the District boardroom, 55th North 8th Avenue, Othello, WA and are open to the public.

www.ecbid.org [ECBIrrigationDistrict](#) [in](#) [ecbid](#)

CBDL Honor

The ECBID Board of Directors- past and present- received the Perseverance Award at the annual Columbia Basin Development League (CBDL) conference in November, selected specifically for their unwavering perseverance of the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program (OGWRP).

President Duaine Anderson accepted the award on behalf of the current Board members, as well as those who have previously served. In his acceptance speech he thanked the ECBID staff for "their continuous efforts to deliver reliable irrigation water to landowners at a sustainable cost." The District has completed two OGWRP delivery systems and currently has an additional two systems under construction.



PROJECT FOCUS

EL 86.4 Delivery System Makes First Deliveries

The second OGWRP system- the EL 86.4 Delivery System- made its first deliveries in April, eliminating the use of 16 wells. This system has converted 5,426 acres from deep well irrigation to Columbia River surface water, effectively conserving 16,143 acre-feet (5.3 billion gallons) of water annually in the Odessa Subarea Aquifer.



Construction on this second OGWRP system began in May 2024. The project is a result of funding included in the 2023 Capital Budget by the Washington State Legislature. The \$32.8M in appropriations was allocated to assist in the design and construction of eligible delivery systems in the OGWRP to provide irrigation water to the acreage located within the Odessa Subarea Special Study. The state's investments in the EL 86.4 system were leveraged to secure an additional \$6M from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for construction of the on-farm infrastructure needed to connect to the public system.



Building the EL 84.7 System

In October, we were joined by landowners, key partners, and elected officials for a very special groundbreaking ceremony on the Orman Johnson Pumping Plant, which will serve the EL 84.7 Delivery System. This is the third Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program (OGWRP) system to begin construction. The EL 47.5 system was completed in 2021 and the EL 86.4 earlier this year.

The event was attended by landowners, elected officials, partners, ECBID Directors and staff, and the family of Orman Johnson. Orman was a respected ag leader, former ECBID Board member, and third-generation farmer who passed away in 2023. Construction on the system began in September. Completion is expected in 2026 with service to 7,138 acres.



OGWRP Visionaries Tour Project

In February, we were thrilled to host a tour of the OGWRP and EL 86.4 construction project for leaders who worked to advance the Program. Those in attendance included:

- Dick Erickson, retired ECBID Secretary-Manager
- Bill Gray, Reclamation Area/Field Office Manager
- Mike Schwisow, Government Affairs
- Merle Gibbons, retired GCPHA and SCBID Secretary-Manager
- WS Department of Ag Director Derek Sandison
- Wendy Christensen Reclamation, OSSS Project Manager
- Craig Simpson, ECBID Secretary-Manager
- Jon Erickson, ECBID Development Director
- Jennifer Korfiatis, ECBID Communications



ECBID By The Numbers

Parcels Served	4,745
Number of Acres Assessed	180,098.6
Total Acres Contracted to be Assessed	191,533.94
Landowners Served	2,802
Varieties of Crops grown	112
Groundwater Replacement Acreage to be served	90,000
Groundwater Replacement Acreage under contract	37,371
Economic annual value of irrigated crops	\$2.66 Billion
East Low Canal design capacity (cfs)	4,500
Miles of canals	86
Miles of laterals	527
Miles of drains	917
Pumping Plants	53
Pumping units	100
2025 Water Assessment	\$79.64 (avg)

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

Water turn-on date: announced at February Board meeting

- Yearly assessments mailed: **January 15**
- Seasonal changes: Applications must be received prior to **February 28**
- RRA needs to be completed prior to water delivery for blocks 48, 461 and WSCs
- Frost control application: Must be submitted by **February 28**
- Priming ELC: To be determined
- First half assessment due: **April 30**
- Early combinations deadline: **April 30**
- Combination deadline: **May 31**
- Late combinations deadline: **After June 1**
- Board declaration of candidacy petitions due: **October 5**
- ELC begins dewatering: **To be determined**
- Second half assessment due: **October 31**
- Supplemental & Excess bills are sent out by **mid-November and due December 11**
- Board meetings: **First Wednesday of every month** at 9:00am unless changed by the Board

Water Delivered

2025	275,318 SFD	545,956 AF
2024	277,459 SFD	550,339 AF
2023	263,813 SFD	523,141 AF
2022	259,867 SFD	515,435 AF
2021	294,722 SFD	584,568 AF

SFD: 1 SFD (Second-Foot-Day) is the volume of water represented by a flow of 1 CFS for 24 hours

AF: 1 Acre-Foot is the volume of water required to cover one acre of land to a depth of one foot

We're Hiring

The District frequently has open staff positions. If you enjoy a supportive and fast-paced environment, we encourage you to visit

<https://ecbid.org/open-positions/> for a current list of opportunities.

The mission of the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District is to provide reliable irrigation water at a sustainable cost to landowners.

Located in central Washington State, the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District is the largest district in the state, with authorization to irrigate 472,000 acres. Currently, 180,098.6 acres are assessed and managed by 2,802 landowners within the federal Columbia Basin Project. The District provides a reliable supply of water that irrigates the cropland that produces food shipped domestically and internationally.