DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

STATE OF WASHINGTON
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REPORT OF EXAMINATION
FOR WATER RIGHT APPLICATION

WR Doc ID 6807211

PRIORITY DATE	WATER RIGHT APPLICATION NUMBER
August 7, 2026	G3-31029

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS	SITE ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT)
Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14 1230 Wallula Ave Walla Walla, WA 99362	

Total Rate and Quantity Authorized for Withdrawal

WITHDRAWAL RATE (gpm)	ANNUAL QUANTITY (ac-ft/yr)
200	0

gpm = Gallons per Minute; ac-ft/yr = Acre-feet per Year

Purpose(s)

PURPOSE	WITHDRAWAL RATE (gpm)	ANNUAL QUANTITY (ac-ft/yr)	PERIOD OF USE
Municipal Supply	200	0	1/1 – 12/31

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION	
WATER SYSTEM NAME and ID	CONNECTIONS
14650	Municipal

Source Location

COUNTY	WATERBODY	TRIBUTARY TO	WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA
Walla Walla	Groundwater		32 – Walla Walla Watershed

SOURCE NAME	PARCEL	WELL TAG	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	QQ Q	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
Well No. 1	350726524045	ALE909	7 N.	35 E.	26	SW¼SE¼	46.05250°N	-118.39546°W
Well No. 3	350726521528	BMU227	7 N.	35 E.	26	SE¼NW¼	46.05729°N	-118.40237°W
Well No. 4A (proposed)	350727420010		7 N.	35 E.	27	W½SE¼		
Well No. 4B (proposed)	350726524300		7 N.	35 E.	26	S½SW¼		
Well No. 4C (proposed)	350726523102		7 N.	35 E.	27	E½SE¼		
OR	350726523102		7 N.	35 E.	26	W½SW¼		

QQ Q = Quarter Quarter

Datum: NAD83/WGS84

Note: Proposed wells Nos. 4A, 4B, and 4C are identified with the same nomenclature and are the same wells proposed in changes under Groundwater Certificate Nos. 662-D, 663-D, 5960-A, and 5961-A identified in Ecology's Records of Decision all dated February 24, 2026.

Place of Use
Described in most recent water system plan update.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AUTHORIZED PLACE OF USE
The service area of Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14 as described in the most recent water system plan approved by the Washington State Department of Health, so long as the water system is and remains in compliance with the criteria in RCW 90.03.386(2). RCW 90.03.386 may have the effect of revising the place of use of this water right as defined by their most current WDOH approved Water System Plan.

Attention: If the criteria in RCW 90.03.386(2) are not met and a Water System Plan/Small Water System Management Program was approved after September 9, 2003, the place of use of this water right is the service area described in that document. If the criteria in RCW 90.03.386(2) are not met and no Water System Plan/Small Water System Management Program has been approved after September 9, 2003, the place of use reverts to the last place of use described by the Department of Ecology in a water right authorization.

Proposed Works
Two operational wells, three proposed wells, pumps, and existing municipal delivery system.

Development Schedule		
BEGIN PROJECT BY THIS DATE	COMPLETE PROJECT BY THIS DATE	PUT WATER TO FULL USE BY THIS DATE
Begun	Completed	2046

Attention: These dates represent deadlines that must be met or risk cancellation of this authorization. Submittal of formal documentation for each stage is required. Extensions may be requested.

Measurement of Water Use	
HOW OFTEN MUST WATER USE BE MEASURED AND RECORDED?	Weekly
HOW OFTEN MUST WATER USE DATA BE REPORTED TO ECOLOGY?	Annually by January 31
WHAT QUANTITY SHOULD BE REPORTED?	Total annual quantity in acre-feet
WHAT RATE SHOULD BE REPORTED?	Annual peak rate of withdrawal in gpm

Provisions

The total withdrawal allowed under Groundwater Certificate Nos. 662-D, 663-D, 5960-A, 5961-A, and Groundwater Permit No. G3-31029 shall not exceed 1514 gallons per minute, 601 acre-feet per year for continuous municipal supply.

This authorization to make use of public waters of the State is subject to existing rights, including any existing rights held by the United States for the benefit of Indians under treaty or otherwise.

Nothing in this authorization shall be construed as satisfying other applicable federal, state, or local statutes, ordinances, or regulations.

Well construction standards
All wells constructed in the state shall meet the "Minimum Standards for the Construction and Maintenance of Wells" (WAC 173-160) and "Water Well Construction" (RCW 18.104). In general, wells shall be located at least 100 feet from sources of contamination and at least 1,000 feet of the boundary of a solid waste landfill. Any well which is unusable, abandoned, or is an environmental, safety, or public health hazard shall be decommissioned.

Any reconstruction of existing wells or new construction of wells shall ensure that production comes from the basalt aquifer unit. All wells shall be cased and sealed into competent basalt.

All wells shall be tagged with a Department of Ecology unique well identification number. If you have an existing well and it does not have a tag, please contact the well-drilling coordinator at the regional Department of Ecology office issuing this decision. This tag shall remain attached to the well. If you are required to submit water measuring reports, reference this tag number.

Installation and maintenance of an access port as described in WAC 173-160-291(3) is required.

Measurements, Monitoring, Metering, and Reporting
An approved measuring device must be installed and maintained to measure water used from **each** source identified in this water right. Chapter 173-173 WAC Requirements for Measuring and Reporting Water Use describes requirements for data accuracy, device installation and operation, information collection and reporting, and your right to request a variance.

For more information on how to follow the terms of this permit, including forms to complete and how to report water use, refer to our Recording and Reporting Water Use webpage: ecology.wa.gov/record-report-water-use. Contact a Metering Coordinator with questions about this provision: email wrero@ecy.wa.gov or call 509-329-3400.

Recorded water use data shall be submitted electronically by January 31 each year.

Municipal Place of Use
If the criteria in RCW 90.03.386(2) are not met and a Water System Plan/Small Water System Management Program was approved after September 9, 2003, the place of use of this water right reverts to the service area described in that document. If the criteria in RCW 90.03.386(2) are not met and no Water System Plan/Small Water System Management Program has been approved after September 9, 2003, the place of use reverts to the last place of use described by the Department of Ecology in a water right authorization.

Health Approval Required
Prior to any new construction or alterations of a public water supply system, the State Board of Health rules require public water supply owners to obtain written approval from the Office of Drinking Water of the Washington State Department of Health. Please contact the Office of Drinking Water prior to beginning (or modifying) your project. Find your regional contact at Drinking Water Contacts and Office Location | Washington State Department of Health. Contact via email at ODW.Mail@doh.wa.gov or mail to PO Box 47822, Olympia, WA 98504-7822, Main phone: 360-236-3100 or Toll Free 800-521-0323 (inside Washington).

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Easement right-of-way
The water source and/or water transmission facilities are not wholly located upon land owned by the applicant. Authorization by this Department does not convey a right of access to, or other right to use, land which the applicant does not legally possess. Obtaining such a right is a private matter between applicant and owner of that land.

Proof of Appropriation
Consistent with the development schedule given in this report (unless extended by Ecology), the water right holder must file a Notice of Proof of Appropriation (PA) of Water with Ecology. The PA documents the project is complete and all the water needed has been put to full beneficial use (perfected). To verify the extent of water use under this permit, an inspection of water use is typically required, known as a "proof exam". After filing the PA, the water right holder's next step is to hire a Certified Water Rights Examiner (CWRE) to conduct this proof exam. A list of CWREs is provided to the water right holder upon filing the PA with Ecology. The final water right document, a water right certificate, then may issue based upon the findings of the CWRE. Statutory county and state filing fees may apply prior to certificate issuance.

Water Use Efficiency
The water right holder is required to maintain efficient water delivery systems and use of up-to-date water conservation practices consistent with RCW 90.03.005.

Schedule and Inspections
Department of Ecology personnel, upon presentation of proper credentials, shall have access at reasonable times, to the project location, and to inspect at reasonable times, records of water use, wells, diversions, measuring devices and associated distribution systems for compliance with water law.

Findings of Fact and Order

Upon reviewing the investigator's report, I find all facts, relevant and material to the subject application, have been thoroughly investigated.

Therefore, I ORDER **APPROVAL** of Application No. G3-31029, subject to existing rights and the provisions specified above.

Your Right To Appeal

You have a right to appeal this decision to the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) within 30 days of the date of receipt. The appeal process is governed by chapter 43.21B RCW and chapter 371-08 WAC. "Date of receipt" is defined in RCW 43.21B.001(2).

To appeal, you must do all of the following within 30 days of the date of receipt of this decision:

- File your notice of appeal and a copy of this decision with the PCHB (see filing information below). "Filing" means actual receipt by the PCHB during regular business hours as defined in WAC 371-08-305 and -335. "Notice of appeal" is defined in WAC 371-08-340.
- Serve a copy of your notice of appeal and this decision on the Department of Ecology by mail, in person, or by email (see addresses below).

You must also comply with other applicable requirements in chapter 43.21B RCW and chapter 371-08 WAC.

Filing An Appeal

Filing with the PCHB

For the most current information regarding filing with the PCHB, visit: https://eluho.wa.gov/ or call: 360-664-9160.

Service on Ecology

Street Address:

Department of Ecology
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Mailing Address:

Department of Ecology
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk
PO Box 47608
Olympia, WA 98504-7608

E-mail Address:

ecologyappeals@ecy.wa.gov

More Information

- **Pollution Control Hearings Board Website**
  https://eluho.wa.gov/
- **Chapter 43.21B RCW – Environmental Hearings Office – Pollution Control Hearings Board**
  http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.21B
- **Chapter 371-08 WAC – Practice And Procedure**
  http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=371-08
- **Chapter 34.05 RCW – Administrative Procedure Act**
  http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=34.05
- **Ecology's Laws, Rules & Rulemaking**
  https://www.ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Laws-rules-rulemaking#ws

Authorizing Signature

Signed at Spokane, Washington, this _____ day of _____, 2026.

_____

Jaime Short, Section Manager
Water Resources Program/Eastern Region Office
Department of Ecology

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INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT

Water Right Application No.: G3-31029
Applicant Name: Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14
Investigator: Shannon Adams

BACKGROUND

This report serves as the written findings of fact concerning Water Right Application No. G3-31029.

The Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14 applied to increase the instantaneous rate of withdrawal (Qi) by 945 gallons per minute (gpm). In July of 2026, the Investigator Shannon Adams spoke with consultant Bill Neve regarding the requested amount of 945 gpm. Ecology recommended the Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14 reduce the instantaneous rate (Qi) to only what they need. On July 23, 2026, Bill Neve sent an email on behalf of the Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14, requesting the instantaneous rate (Qi) be reduced to 200 gpm. The resulting water right request will be additive instantaneous rate of withdrawal (Qi) to the existing system of Groundwater Certificate Nos. 662-D, 663-D, 5960-A, and 5961-A, with zero increase in annual quantity (Qa). The Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14 Water System: ID #14650 is in good standing with the Washington State Department of Health. The proposed place of use of this water right appropriation will be the area served by the Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14 service area identified in Map 1 below.

Map 1: The area served by the Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14.

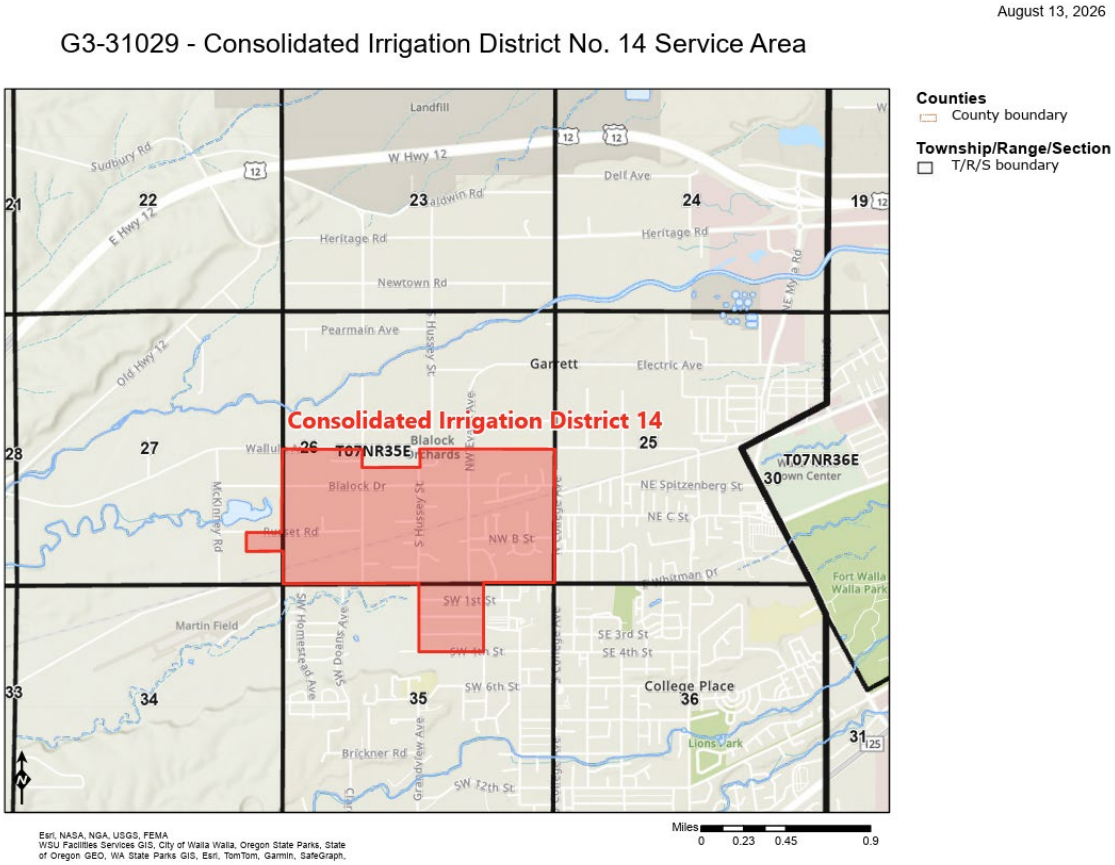

Table 1. Summary of Requested Water Right

Applicant Name	Consolidated Irrigation Dist. 14
Priority Date	August 7, 2025
County	Walla Walla
WRIA	Walla Walla Watershed
Water Source	Groundwater
Place of Use	Within the S½ of Section 26, SE¼SE¼ of Section 27, NW¼NE¼ Section 35, all within T. 7 N., R. 35 E.W.M, in Walla Walla County.

Purpose	Instantaneous Rate (gpm)	Annual Quantity (ac-ft/yr)	Begin Season	End Season
Municipal Supply	200	0	1/1	12/31

Source	Parcel	Well Tag	Township	Range	Section	QQ Q	Latitude	Longitude
Well No. 1	350726524045	ALE909	7 N.	35 E.	26	SW¼SE¼	46.05250°N	-118.39546°W
Well No. 3	350726521528	BMU227	7 N.	35 E.	26	SE¼NW¼	46.05729°N	-118.40237°W
Well No. 4A (proposed)	350727430010		7 N.	35 E.	27	W½SE¼		
Well No. 4B (proposed)	350726524300		7 N.	35 E.	26	S½SW¼		
Well No. 4C (proposed) OR	350726523102		7 N.	35 E.	27	E½SE¼		
	350726523102		7 N.	35 E.	26	W½SW¼		

WRIA = Water Resource Inventory Area; gpm = Gallons per Minute; ac-ft/yr = Acre-feet per Year; QQ Q = Quarter Quarter Datum: NAD83/WGS84

Note: Proposed wells Nos. 4A, 4B, and 4C are identified with the same nomenclature and are the same wells proposed in changes under Groundwater Certificate Nos. 662-D, 663-D, 5960-A, and 5961-A identified in Ecology's Records of Decision all dated February 24, 2026.

INVESTIGATION

In considering the proposed application, the investigation included, but was not limited to, research and review of: 1) Appropriate rules and statutes; 2) Ecology water right file; 3) Other water rights, permits and claims; 4) USGS topographic maps, aerial photographs, and other GIS data; 5) Proposed points of withdrawal; 6) Proposed place of use; 7) HYDROGEOLOGIC ANALYSIS: Groundwater Application No. G3-31029, 2026; 8) Water System Plan For Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14, 2025; 9) Chapter 173-532 WAC Water Resources Program for the Walla Walla River Basin, WRIA 32 and Watershed Planning; and 10) Discussions with Department of Ecology regional program staff.

The Investigator, Shannon Adams, conducted a remote exam utilizing the above listed information, which was determined to be sufficient for this application. The Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14 is located approximately 2.5 miles west of Walla Walla, Washington. The proposed appropriation is located within the Walla Walla Basin that is managed under Chapter 173-532 WAC Water Resources Program for the Walla Walla River Basin, WRIA 32.

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Proposed Use and Basis of Water Demand

Site Description

The Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14 municipal water supply system has a service area of approximately 350 acres within unincorporated Walla Walla County and a portion of College Place. The Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14 is bound by Wallula Avenue to the north, College Avenue to the east, Whitman Drive and Southwest Fourth Street to the south, and to the west by a line running north and south approximately 1400 feet west of Campbell Road. The service area consists mainly of residential development with some commercial/industrial uses.

Water System Description

The municipal supply consists of two operational wells (Well No. 1 and Well No. 3), pumps, and existing municipal delivery system. The Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14 has two interties with two water purveyors, City of College Place and Blalock 12 Irrigation Water District. The agreement with the City of College Place allows two-way flow of water between entities. This intertie agreement allows the Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14 to use the City of College Place's fire suppression storage, eliminating the need for their own.

History of Water Use

The Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14 formed in 1938 pursuant to Title 87 RCW and is a municipal water purveyor of a Group A Public Water System No. 14650. The Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14 water right portfolio currently consists of four groundwater rights that withdraw water from basalt wells. These water rights are listed in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Consolidated Irrigation District 14 Total Water Rights for Municipal Supply

Water Right	Priority Date	Source(s)	Qi Additive (gpm)	Qa Additive (ac-ft/yr)	Inchoate (ac-ft/yr)
662-D	1/1/1909	Well No. 1, 2*, 3 proposed 4A, 4B, 4C	425	62	
663-D	1/1/1912	Well No. 1, 2*, 3 proposed 4A, 4B, 4C	425	62	
5960-A	10/20/1964	Well No. 1, 2*, 3 proposed 4A, 4B, 4C	175	179	
5961-A	10/20/1964	Well No. 1, 2*, 3 proposed 4A, 4B, 4C	292	298	160.2
Existing Total			**1317 gpm**	**601 ac-ft/yr**	**160.2 ac-ft/yr**
G3-31029	8/7/2025	Well No. 1, 3 proposed 4A, 4B, 4C	200	0	0
Proposed Total			**1517 gpm**	**601 ac-ft/yr**	**160.2 ac-ft/yr**

gpm = gallons per minute; ac-ft/yr = acre-feet per year

***Well No. 2 (Well Tag ABS041) –** In October 2018, a well hole camera discovered that approximately 65 feet of well casing was missing and exposed the well to clay layers. Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14 planned to abandon and seal the well. However, the well was offered to the United States Geological Survey (USGS)/Ecology as a monitoring well rather than decommissioning. Groundwater Well No. 2 was not decommissioned and was retained as a groundwater monitoring well.

Groundwater Certificate Nos. 5960-A, 5961-A, 662-D, and 663-D were all issued to the Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14 based on the installed system capacity, and not actual beneficial use. This practice is currently referred to as "pumps and pipes". In *Department of Ecology v. Theodoratus*, *135 Wn.2d 582, 957 P.2d 1241(1998)*, the Washington Supreme Court held that state statutory law and common law did not allow the State to issue a vested water right certificate based on water system capacity. Although this case did not involve a municipality, the Court recognized that under Washington's statutes there are significant differences between municipal water suppliers and other water uses. The court stated in this decision that municipal water rights often receive separate treatment under water law. Notwithstanding this distinction, the *Theodoratus* decisions caused uncertainty over the status of water right certificates that were issued to public water supplies under the "pumps and pipes" standard. In response to the *Theodoratus* decision and the uncertainty it created, the legislature enacted Washington's Municipal Water Law (MWL), which became effective on September 9, 2003. In 2010, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the MWL in Lummi *Indian Nation vs. State of Washington, 179 Wn.2d 247, 241 P.3d 1220 (2010)*.

RCW 90.03.330(3) provides that water rights for municipal water supply purposes documented by "pumps and pipes" certificates issued prior to September 9, 2003, are "rights in good standing." These water rights may include inchoate quantities that have not yet been exercised. Such rights may continue to be exercised to serve the municipal water Supplier's reasonably anticipated future needs.

RCW 90.03.330(2) provides that Ecology cannot revoke or diminish certificated water rights for municipal water supply purposes, except under certain limited circumstances. One such circumstance is "for the issuance of certificates following the approval of a change, transfer, or amendment under RCW 90.93.380 or 90.44.100." Thus, Ecology may revoke or diminish a water right during the process of evaluating a groundwater right change application under RCW 90.44.100, based on the tentative determination of extent and validity of the water right, or to prevent impairment of other water rights or detriment to the public welfare.

As mentioned above, the Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14 municipal water right portfolio consists of four water rights. Change applications were filed on all four applications in 2019 and 2025. These authorized changes included changing the purpose of use to Municipal Water Supply, changing the place of use to the service area of Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14, adding three existing wells to all water rights, and adding three proposed locations for drilling new wells.

All existing and proposed points of withdrawal under Groundwater Certificate Nos. 5960-A, 5961-A, 662-D, and 663-D are the same proposed for this application except Well No. 2. In a phone conversation with consultant Bill Neve on August 7, 2026, the Investigator Shannon Adams let him know that Well No. 2 was not included in Groundwater Application No. G3-31029. To add Well No. 2, a new public notice would be required. Bill Neve declined to add Well No. 2.

Well No. 2 is located on Walla Walla Couty Parcel No. 350726523826 which is 0.06 acres (2613.6 square feet) in size. Currently, Well No. 2 is a groundwater monitoring well after the 2018 discovery of missing approximately 65 feet of well casing, exposing the well to clay layers. Should a new well be drilled to replace Well No. 2 at the same location, a change application would be required if the Applicant wishes to add the new well to Groundwater Permit No. G3-31029.

The Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14 Draft Water System Plan dated August 2025 showed the current inchoate portion of the four water rights as 160.2 acre-feet per year. Their 20-year forecast anticipated that there would be 112.1 acre-feet per year inchoate water remaining.

Proposed Use

The Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14 requested an increase in the authorized instantaneous rate of withdrawal by 200 gpm with no increase in annual quantity within the same place of use as Groundwater Certificate Nos. 5960-A, 5961-A, 662-D, and 663-D for municipal water supply. This added instantaneous rate will address the future deficiency for water demand identified in the 2025 Draft Water System Plan and allow for operating well sources at full capacity simultaneously.

Historical water right documentation for Groundwater Certificate Nos. 5960-A, 5961-A, 662-D, and 663-D, state the population within the area served by Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14 in 1948 was 800 people with 224 connections. By 1964 the population was 1000 people with 252 connections. Currently, the population is approximately 1550 people served through 637 connections. According to the 2025 Draft Water System Plan, they anticipate an additional 66 connections by 2044.

The Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14 has exercised reasonable diligence in developing their inchoate portions of water rights. Over time, the population within the area served by Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14 continues to increase. Any future growth and additional water needs beyond 20 years will need to come from the available inchoate portions under Ground Water Certificate Nos. 5960-A, 5961-A, 662-D, and 663-D.

Other Rights Associated with Project or Place of Use

Ecology records were reviewed for existing water right certificates, permits, and claims appurtenant to the project. The search focused primarily in Section 26, 27, and 35 of T. 7 N., R. 35 E.W.M. The review of Ecology records shows the several water rights appurtenant to the proposed place of use.

As mentioned above, Groundwater Certificate Nos. 5960-A, 5961-A, 662-D, and 663-D all share the same place of use as this proposed application. The place of use is the area served by the Consolidated Irrigation District No.14 as described in the most recent water system plan approved by the Washington State Department of Health, so long as the water system remains in compliance with the criteria in RCW 90.03.386(2). RCW 90.03.386 may have the effect of revising the place of use of this water right as defined by their most current Washington State Department of Health approved Water System Plan.

The total combined quantities of Groundwater Certificate Nos. 5960-A, 5961-A, 662-D, 663-D and Groundwater Permit No. G3-31029 shall not exceed 1517 gpm, 601 acre-feet per year for municipal supply.

The review of Ecology records shows numerous Certificates within the area served by the Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14. These are all separate water rights that are not connected to this system or related to the project. The only connection is the City of College Place's intertie.

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Below is a list of Certificates that are overlapping or wholly in the area served by the Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14:

Groundwater Certificate No. G3-28952 – Jan Bakland
Groundwater Certificate No. G3-28175 – Charles Schmatt
Groundwater Certificate No. 6644-A – Ponti AV & CA
Groundwater Certificate No. 6633-A – City of College Place
Groundwater Certificate No. 5681-A – City of College Place
Groundwater Certificate No. 4518-A – Ponti A
Groundwater Certificate No. 4081-A – City of Walla Walla
Groundwater Certificate No. 3151-A – City of Walla Walla
Groundwater Certificate No. 3209-A – Virgil Criscola and Craig Chase
Groundwater Certificate No. 2573-A – Paietta C
Groundwater Certificate No. 2134-A – Ponti A
Groundwater Certificate No. 2479-A – Lund TJ
Groundwater Certificate No. 1900-A – City of Walla Walla
Groundwater Certificate No. 1516-A – Land RJ
Groundwater Certificate No. 1182-A – Frank Aliverti
Groundwater Certificate No. 1061-D – James Beeson
Groundwater Certificate No. 1062-D – City of Walla Walla
Groundwater Certificate No. 1063-D – City of Walla Walla
Groundwater Certificate No. 650-D – City of College Place
Groundwater Certificate No. 651-D – City of College Place
Groundwater Certificate No. 401-D – City of College Place
Groundwater Certificate No. 265-A – City of College Place
Groundwater Certificate No. 4232-A(A) – John Lucarelli
Groundwater Certificate No. 4232-A(C) – Lousie Brown
Groundwater Certificate No. G3-26916 – City of College Place
Groundwater Certificate No. 4232-A(D) – John and Suzanne Golden

The validity and extent of the above listed Other Rights Associated with Project or Place of Use are not determined in this report.

HYDROGEOLOGIC ANALYSIS: G3-31029

"The application for G3-31029 is a new application for instantaneous quantity (Qi) only, and no annual quantity (Qa). The additional Qi of 200 gallons per minute (gpm) would be authorized at two existing points of withdrawal and three proposed points of withdrawal. This project is located within Walla Walla County, Washington. The existing and proposed points of withdrawal are located in Sections 26 or 27 in T 7 N, R 35 E.W.M." (Cabbage, P. 2026).

Well Construction

"Well No. 1 was constructed in 2008 to a depth of 613 feet below ground surface (bgs). It is recorded as being a 12 inch well with 12 inch casing from ground surface to 553 ft bgs, and a 10 inch liner placed from 554-613 ft bgs. This well is located in the SW¼SE¼ of Section 26, T. 7 N., R. 35 E.W.M. During drilling, clay, gravel, and sand was encountered from ground surface to 539 ft bs. Basalt was encountered from 539 ft bgs to the total depth. Static water level at the time of drilling was 201 ft bgs. The well was pump tested at approximately 500 gpm at the time of drilling." (Cabbage, P. 2026).

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"Well No. 3 was constructed in 2021 to a depth of 556 feet below land surface. It is recorded as being a 16 inch well with 24 inch casing from ground surface to 60 ft bgs, 16 inch casing from ground surface to 496 ft bgs, and open-hole from 496 ft bgs to the total depth. This well is located in the SE¼NW¼ of Section 26, T. 7 N., R. 35 E.W.M. During drilling, gravel, clay, and sand was encountered from ground surface to 465 ft bgs. Basalt was encountered from 465 ft bgs to the total depth. Static water level at the time of drilling was 261 ft bgs. The well was air tested at approximately 1,000 gpm at the time of drilling." (Cabbage, P. 2026).

"The proposed wells under this application are located within approximately 1 mile of the existing wells. The existing wells are completed in, and withdrawing water from, the basalts of the Columbia River Basalt Group. New wells will also need to be completed in, and withdraw groundwater from, the basalts. All new wells must be drilled and completed according to WAC 173-160. Any existing wells that are decommissioned or replaced must be done so according to WAC 173-160." (Cabbage, P. 2026). The proposed wells are listed in Table 3 below:

Table 3: Proposed Wells

Source	Parcel	Township	Range	Section	QQ Q
Well No. 4A (proposed)	350727430010	7 N.	35 E.	27	W½SE¼
Well No. 4B (proposed)	350726524300	7 N.	35 E.	26	S½SW¼
Well No. 4C (proposed)	350726523102	7 N.	35 E.	27	E½SE¼
OR	350726523102	7 N.	35 E.	26	W½SW¼

Note: Proposed wells Nos. 4A, 4B, and 4C are identified with the same nomenclature and are the same wells proposed in changes under Groundwater Certificate Nos. 662-D, 663-D, 5960-A, and 5961-A identified in Ecology's Records of Decision all dated February 24, 2026.

ANALYSIS

Under Washington State law (RCW 90.03.290), each of the following four criteria must be met for an application for a new water right permit to be approved:

- Water must be available for appropriation.
- Water withdrawal and use must not cause impairment of existing water rights.
- The proposed water use must be beneficial.
- Water use must not be detrimental to public interest (public welfare).

Water Availability

For any new appropriation, water must be both physically and legally available.

Physical Availability

For water to be physically available for appropriation, water must be present in quantities and quality and on a sufficiently frequent basis to provide a reasonably reliable source for the requested beneficial use or uses. An analysis of physical availability is required for both surface water and groundwater applications.

Based on the analysis above, the formation is anticipated to have adequate capacity available for the proposed increase to instantaneous withdrawal. Therefore, water is physically available for the proposed appropriation as there will be no increase in annual quantity.

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Legal Availability

To meet the legal availability test, the proposed appropriation may not withdraw and use water that is already "spoken for", such as water from sources that are protected by administrative rule or court order.

The existing wells are constructed into a basalt aquifer. The total proposed withdrawal under this application is an additive instantaneous quantity of 200 gallons per minute with non-additive annual quantity. Meaning the request is non-consumptive since only the rate of withdrawal will increase with this request. The Hydrogeologic Analysis above concluded that the basalt aquifer has adequate capacity available for the proposed increase of instantaneous withdrawal. Therefore, water is legally available for the proposed appropriation as there will be no increase in annual quantity.

Impairment

Ecology must determine whether existing water rights, including adopted instream flows, may be impaired by the withdrawal and proposed use.

"The applicant is proposing to increase the Qi associated with their existing groundwater rights from 1,317 gpm to 1,517 gpm while not changing the Qa of 601 acre-feet per year on their underlying rights. Values of water pumped by Consolidated Irrigation District 14 each month in 2025 were obtained from the Washington State Department of Health's Sentry Database. Using these monthly values, an estimate was completed of how many hours per day (on a monthly average) the applicant's wells are currently pumping to provide water. This calculation was first done at the current authorized Qi of 1,317 gpm, then another calculation was conducted at the proposed Qi of 1,517 gpm." (Cabbage, P. 2026).

"Allowing the increase in the instantaneous pumping rate from 1,317 to 1,517 gpm would decrease pumping cycles by an average of approximately 0.2 hours per day during the winter months and approximately 1.1 hours per day during the summer months. The difference in these pumping times is effectively negligible because the applicant still needs to provide water over the entire year and remain within their annual limits. While they could theoretically pump more water per day under a higher Qi, they couldn't sustain that higher rate as they would overrun their annual limit long before the year was up. It is unlikely there will be any significant impacts to the natural environment if they decrease their pumping time by 1.1 hours per day during the summer months (by increasing the Qi) because they are still providing the same volume of water, they are just changing how long their wells run on any given day." (Cabbage, P. 2026).

"These changes do not add additional Qa to the underlying water rights. It is unlikely that the proposed change will impair existing water rights." (Cabbage, P. 2026).

The Applicant proposes only to increase the maximum instantaneous flow rate (Qi) without increasing the annual quantity (Qa) already authorized under existing water rights. The increased instantaneous withdrawal will only allow Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14 to run their pumps simultaneously and not impair other water rights.

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The existing wells are constructed into the basalt aquifer. The total proposed withdrawal under this application is an additive instantaneous quantity of 200 gallons per minute with non-additive annual quantity. Meaning the request is non-consumptive since only the rate of withdrawal will increase with this request. The Hydrogeologic Analysis above concluded that the basalt aquifer has adequate capacity available for the proposed increase of instantaneous withdrawal. There has been no documented history of pumping interference between existing wells in this area. According to the above Hydrogeologic Analysis, the proposed appropriation is not expected to impair existing water rights. In the unforeseen event the increased instantaneous causes impairment to existing rights, it will be regulated accordingly.

Beneficial Use

Municipal Water Supply is considered a beneficial use of water under RCW 90.54.020(1).

Public Interest

The withdrawal and associated use must not be detrimental to the public interest. At a minimum, the following are considered when making this assessment.

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

Under chapter 197-11 WAC, a water right application is subject to a SEPA threshold determination (i.e., an evaluation of whether there will be significant adverse environmental impacts) if any of the following conditions are met:

- It is a surface water right application for more than 1 cfs, unless that project is for agricultural irrigation, in which case the threshold is increased to 50 cfs, so long as that irrigation project will not receive public subsidies;
- It is a groundwater right application for more than 2,250 gpm;
- It is an application that, in combination with other water right applications for the same project, collectively exceed the amounts above;
- It is a part of a larger proposal that is subject to SEPA for other reasons (e.g., the need to obtain other permits that are not exempt from SEPA);
- It is part of a series of exempt actions that, together, trigger the need to do a threshold determination, as defined under WAC 197-11-305.

Considering that none of the above conditions are met, the application under review is categorically exempt from a SEPA threshold determination.

Public Notice

RCW 90.03.280 requires that notice of a water right application be published once a week, for two consecutive weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or counties where the water is stored, diverted, and used.

Notice of this application was published once a week, for two consecutive weeks (beginning September 18, 2025, and September 25, 2025), in *The Times*, a newspaper of general circulation, in Walla Walla County.

There has been no public expression of protests or letters of concern regarding this application.
This investigation indicates the proposed withdrawal and associated use are not detrimental to public interest (public welfare).

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Conclusions

I find that:

- Water is physically and legally available.
- The appropriation will not impair existing rights.
- The proposed municipal water supply is a beneficial use.
- Approval of this application will not be detrimental to the public interest.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above investigation and conclusions, I recommend this request for a water right be **APPROVED** in the amounts and within the limitations listed below and subject to the provisions listed above.

Recommended Quantities, Purpose of Use, and Project Location

The rate and quantity of water recommended are maximum limits. The permit holder may only withdraw water at a rate and quantity within the specified limits that are reasonable and beneficial:

Table 3. Recommended Limits and Location

Maximum Instantaneous Rate (gpm)	200
Maximum Annual Quantity (ac-ft/yr)	0
Purpose(s) of Use	Municipal water supply
Point of Withdrawal	See page 1.
Place of Use	See page 2.

Report Writer *Date*

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology Water Resources Program at 360-407-6872. Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

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References

Cabbage, P. (2026). Washington State Department of Ecology: Water Resources Program technical report HYDROGEOLOGIC ANALYSIS: Groundwater Application No. G3-31029 October 12, 2026.

Anderson Perry & Associates, Inc. and Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14 Job No. 6031-22 (2025 Draft). Water System Plan For Consolidated Irrigation District No. 14, 2025.

[Add map at end of document]

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