

SAJB Officers: President Jeremy Jenkins, Vice President Shane Sheppard,
Secretary Todd Henry, Treasurer Megan Johnson



SPOKANE AQUIFER JOINT BOARD

Meeting Agenda

September 24, 2026 at 1:30 pm

Hybrid Meeting

Spokane County Water District #3

1225 N. Yardley Rd., Spokane, WA

Virtual meeting connection link on next page

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Welcome and Call to Order
- b. Consideration of May 28, 2026 meeting minutes

2. SPECIAL GUESTS

- a. GSI Water Solutions
 - i. Groundwater Capture Zones project report

3. FINANCIAL REPORT – Treasurer Megan Johnson

- a. Treasurer report
- b. Approve bill payments for June, July, August, and September 2026

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. PCSI updates
 - i. Reanette Boese

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Action: Budget Amendment 2026-02: A budget amendment to the Spokane Aquifer Joint Board 2026 Wellhead Protection Budget
- b. Action: Approve 2026 PCSI Mailing Packet
- c. Action: Approve letters to jurisdictions regarding proposed data center development

6. WELLHEAD PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- a. Program Manager Report

7. OPEN FORUM

8. ADJOURN

(Next regular meeting: October 22, 2026)



Consider the environment before printing this material.

SAJB Meeting Agenda

September 24, 2026



SAJB is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Regular Meeting of the Spokane Aquifer Joint Board

Time: Sep 24, 2026 01:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84499049305?pwd=0tr07yYCtjAgO0jo8bzNgSjNZ3sh1E.1>

Meeting chat link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/launch/jc/84499049305>

Meeting ID: 844 9904 9305

Passcode: 035551

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,84499049305#,,,,*035551# US (Tacoma)

+12532050468,,84499049305#,,,,*035551# US

Join by SIP

• 84499049305@zoomcrc.com

Join instructions

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meetings/84499049305/invitations?signature=Wof3B9rITK8kFG1SrCYSD6E8BvSO8C0ejqVESloihP8>



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SPOKANE AQUIFER JOINT BOARD

Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2026 at 1:30 pm

Hybrid Meeting

Spokane County Water District #3

1225 N. Yardley Rd., Spokane, WA

1. CALL TO ORDER

a. Welcome and Call to Order

The Spokane Aquifer Joint Board (SAJB) met in regular session via Zoom and in person at Spokane County Water District #3. A total of seventeen (17) people attended the meeting, including: eight (8) SAJB voting representatives, two (2) non-voting representative, Program Manager Meagan Hayes and four (6) guests. Shane Sheppard served as proxy for Modern Electric Water Company, and Todd Henry served as proxy for Irvin Water District No. 6 and North Spokane Irrigation District No. 8. Including the proxy representatives, a quorum was achieved.

President Jenkins called the regular meeting of the SAJB to order at 1:39pm. A round of introductions was provided.

b. Consideration of March 19, 2026 meeting minutes

A motion was made by Shane Sheppard and seconded by Matt Erdahl to approve the March 19, 2026 meeting minutes as presented; none opposed. Motion carries and the minutes are approved.

c. Consideration of April 23, 2026 meeting minutes

A motion was made by Shane Sheppard and seconded by Todd Henry to approve the April 23, 2026 meeting minutes as presented; none opposed. Motion carries and the minutes are approved.

2. SPECIAL GUESTS

a. Spokane River Forum – Happy Avery

Happy Avery of the Spokane River Forum (SRF) provided a program update. SRF has experienced recent staffing changes, with Lori no longer with the organization and Happy and Sofia currently managing operations while future staffing needs are evaluated. Happy expressed appreciation for SAJB's continued support and reported that the 2026 Water Breakfast drew more than 270 attendees, with broader representation across sectors than in previous years. The Board congratulated Reanette on receiving the 2026 Ty Wick Award.





SRF is working to increase use of its website and resources, including the Outdoor Watering Nerds program. A redesign of the Waste and Recycling Directory is also underway to address technical issues, modernize the site, improve mobile accessibility, and potentially expand coverage and functionality for Spokane and Kootenai Counties. Members interested in viewing the prototype may contact Happy.

Happy also provided an update on the EnviroCertified program. Applications have been revised to be more user-friendly and are now available online, with SRF continuing to explore ways to increase business participation.

SRF is considering expanding the Water Breakfast, potentially to a two-day event. The 2027 Water Breakfast is scheduled for March 30–31, 2027.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT – Treasurer Megan Johnson

a. Treasurer report

President Jeremy Jenkins presented a brief report on behalf of Treasurer Megan Johnson. It was reported that due to a printing error, four checks were voided. This has been documented for the record.

b. Approve bill payments for May 2026

President Jeremy Jenkins presented the bill payment summary for May, 2026:

i. Wellhead Implementation Fund Account:

1. KSPS PBS, Invoice No. SAJB 2026-1, \$11,250.00
2. Plants of the Wild, Invoice No. 46770-IN, \$337.90
3. Anne Francis, Invoice No. 9746 SAJB, \$139.14
4. MJH Consulting, Invoice No. 2026-05, \$2,177.63

A motion was made by Doug Greenlund and seconded by Todd Henry to approve the May, 2026 bill payment summary as presented; none opposed. Motion carries.

4. OLD BUSINESS

a. Email from GSI Water Solutions – John Porcello RE Groundwater Capture Zones

Jeremy Jenkins provided an update and summarized concerns regarding the current draft from LLSWD, specifically the overlap of well capture zones and the need for each well to have a discrete capture zone. Doug confirmed that the original ShapeFiles included a separate capture zone for each well and that the digitization effort should maintain this distinction. The goal is to retain individual well capture zones while allowing them to be viewed collectively.

Jeremy will provide feedback to the consultant and reach out to SAJB members to discuss the capture zones. Members were encouraged to present the concept to their respective boards and report back at the September meeting. Concerns were





also raised regarding potential misrepresentation of capture zones in notifications to DEM.

b. PCSI updates – Reanette Boese

Jeremy reminded members that the PCSI submission deadline has passed and requested that any outstanding information be submitted as soon as possible. He noted that discussions will take place this fall regarding potential changes to the PCSI program, including whether to continue the current process or consolidate the effort into a biennial process. Members were encouraged to begin considering potential modifications.

Reanette reported using Google Earth to assist in identifying new potential hazard sites, with a letter expected to be distributed this summer. The Board also discussed potential future changes to the PCSI process and incorporating information about EnviroCertified and/or the new Waste and Recycling Directory. SRF was asked whether printed copies of the related flyer could be provided.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Memorandum of Understanding between the Spokane County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and the Spokane Aquifer Joint Board (SAJB) Membership of Water Purveyors in Spokane County

Meagan provided background information regarding the proposed MOU and DEM notification system. Jeremy noted that the MOU does not appear to be required to use the DEM notification system but would provide a smoother and more consistent process for SAJB members. Doug expressed general support for the concept while noting concerns about potentially overstepping the authority of individual purveyor elected boards.

6. WELLHEAD PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

a. Program Manager Report

Meagan provided a general program update, noting that the state report has been completed and there are no additional events currently scheduled. Summer priorities include completing an inventory, ordering new outreach bags, updating the SAJB website, maintaining social media outreach, and developing a new informational flyer.

7. OPEN FORUM

- a. Deborah Johnson of the Washington State Department of Health requested clarification regarding the City of Spokane's representative. Tyler Kimbrell, City of Spokane Planner, was identified as the appropriate contact. Doug Greenlund will be contacted regarding the matter.



SAJB Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2026



8. ADJOURN

There being no further business, President Jenkins adjourned the regular meeting of the Spokane Aquifer Joint Board at 2:50pm.

Minutes approved on this _____ day of _____, 20____.

President, Jeremy Jenkins

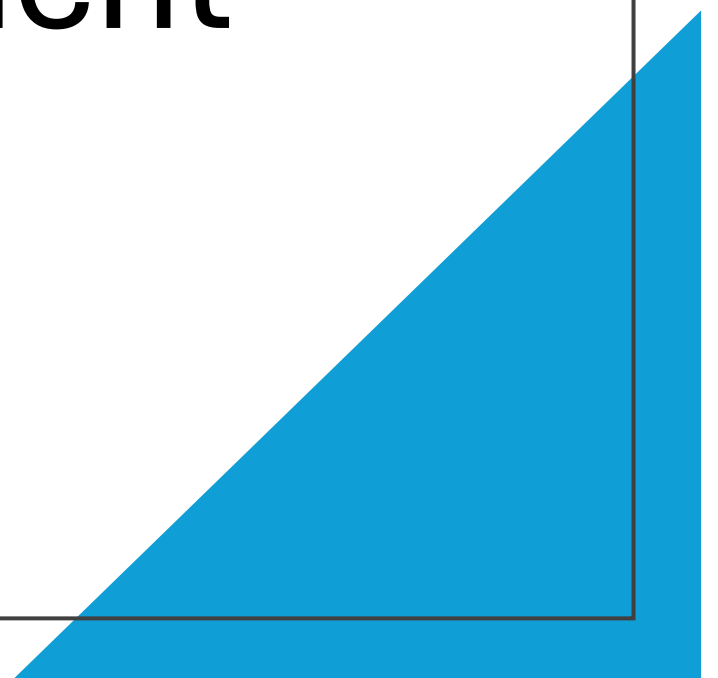
Secretary, Todd Henry



Consider the environment before printing this material.

Spokane Aquifer Joint Board 2026 Budget Amendment #2

September 24, 2026



Amendment Purpose

PURCHASE
ADDITIONAL
OUTREACH
MATERIALS



FUND PCSI
LETTER MAILING



Education Committee – CURRENT

Committee - EDUCATION

Expense	2026 Budget
2026 Education and Outreach (E&O) Campaign	\$ 2,000.00
Aqua Duck Performances	\$ 400.00
Cleaning Services for AquaDuck Costume and Tablecloth	\$ 160.00
Graphic Design of Digital Ad Artwork (not associated with 2026 E&O Campaign)	\$ 2,000.00
KSPS PBS	\$ 45,000.00
Total	\$ 49,560.00

Education Committee – PROPOSED

Committee - EDUCATION	
Expense	2026 Budget
2026 Education and Outreach (E&O) Campaign	\$ -
Aqua Duck Performances	\$ 400.00
Cleaning Services for AquaDuck Costume and Tablecloth	\$ 160.00
Graphic Design of Digital Ad Artwork (not associated with 2026 E&O Campaign)	\$ 2,000.00
KSPS PBS	\$ 45,000.00
Total	\$ 47,560.00

PCSI Committee – CURRENT

Committee - POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT SOURCE INVENTORY	
Expense	2026 Budget
Boese Water Resources. PCSI Research, Education and Awareness	\$ 13,000.00
Total	\$ 13,000.00

PCSI Committee – PROPOSED

Committee - POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT SOURCE INVENTORY	
Expense	2026 Budget
Boese Water Resources. PCSI Research, Education and Awareness	\$ 13,000.00
PCSI Mailing	\$ 3,000.00
Total	\$ 16,000.00

All Committee— CURRENT

Committee - ALL		
Expense	↕↑	2026 Budget
Aquifer Protection	\$	15,000.00
Bank Fees	\$	20.00
ID Purveyor Outreach	\$	-
Mileage	\$	1,500.00
MJH Consulting - Program Manager	\$	40,000.00
Promotional Materials	\$	4,000.00
QuickBooks Software	\$	1,000.00
Reimbursables	\$	500.00
Website Hosting Fees	\$	600.00
Website Technical Assistance	\$	2,000.00
WIP Model MicroFEM to MODFLOW	\$	-
Zoom	\$	150.00
Total	\$	64,770.00

All Committee – PROPOSED

Committee - ALL			
Expense	↕↑	2026 Budget	–
Aquifer Protection	\$	15,000.00	
Bank Fees	\$	20.00	
ID Purveyor Outreach	\$	-	
Mileage	\$	1,500.00	
MJH Consulting - Program			
Manager	\$	40,000.00	
Promotional Materials	\$	9,000.00	
QuickBooks Software	\$	1,000.00	
Reimbursables	\$	500.00	
Website Hosting Fees	\$	600.00	
Website Technical			
Assistance	\$	2,000.00	
WIP Model MicroFEM to			
MODFLOW	\$	-	
Zoom	\$	150.00	
Total	\$	69,770.00	

Item	Amount	Running total
Reduction in E&O line item	\$ (2,000.00)	\$ (2,000.00)
Addition to PCSI - mailing	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Addition to ALL - promo materials	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Total Change		\$ 5,000.00

Summary of Changes

Revenue Source	2026 Budget Final
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 145,908.48
ALL Expenditures	\$ 64,770.00
Proactive Expenditures	\$ 5,000.00
Household Contaminant Disposal Expenditures	\$ 5,000.00
PCSI Expenditures	\$ 13,000.00
Conservation Expenditures	\$ 5,000.00
Education Expenditures	\$ 49,560.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 142,330.00
TOTAL REMAINING	\$ 3,578.48

Impact to Budget – Current Overview

Revenue Source	2026 Budget Final
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 145,908.48
ALL Expenditures	\$ 69,770.00
Proactive Expenditures	\$ 5,000.00
Household Contaminant Disposal Expenditures	\$ 5,000.00
PCSI Expenditures	\$ 16,000.00
Conservation Expenditures	\$ 5,000.00
Education Expenditures	\$ 47,560.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 148,330.00
TOTAL REMAINING	\$ (2,421.52)

Impact to Budget – Proposed Overview

Revenue Source	2026 Budget Final
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 145,908.48
ALL Expenditures	\$ 70,770.00
Proactive Expenditures	\$ 5,000.00
Household Contaminant Disposal Expenditures	\$ 5,000.00
PCSI Expenditures	\$ 16,000.00
Conservation Expenditures	\$ 5,000.00
Education Expenditures	\$ 47,560.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 149,330.00
TOTAL SPENT	\$ 63,171.20
TOTAL REMAINING	\$ 86,158.80

Spending to Date - Summary

Questions?



Spokane Aquifer Joint Board
2026 Budget - Final - Approved November 20, 2025
Amended September 24, 2026

Revenue Source	2026 Budget	
Annual Income from SAJB Public Purveyors	\$	138,908.48
Department of Health SWP Grant	\$	-
Estimated Interest Income	\$	1,000.00
Honeywell	\$	2,000.00
Kaiser (Trentwood)	\$	2,000.00
SBIP - Crown West Realty	\$	2,000.00
TOTAL	\$	145,908.48

Spokane Aquifer Joint Board
2026 Budget - Final - Approved November 20, 2025
Amended September 24, 2026

Revenue Source	2026 Budget Final
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 145,908.48
ALL Expenditures	\$ 69,770.00
Proactive Expenditures	\$ 5,000.00
Household Contaminant Disposal Expenditures	\$ 5,000.00
PCSI Expenditures	\$ 16,000.00
Conservation Expenditures	\$ 5,000.00
Education Expenditures	\$ 47,560.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 148,330.00
TOTAL REMAINING	\$ (2,421.52)

Spokane Aquifer Joint Board
2026 Budget - Final - Approved November 20, 2025
Amended March 19, 2026

Committee - ALL

Expense	2026 Budget
Aquifer Protection	\$ 15,000.00
Bank Fees	\$ 20.00
ID Purveyor Outreach	\$ -
Mileage	\$ 1,500.00
MJH Consulting - Program Manager	\$ 40,000.00
Promotional Materials	\$ 9,000.00
QuickBooks Software	\$ 1,000.00
Reimbursables	\$ 500.00
Website Hosting Fees	\$ 600.00
Website Technical Assistance	\$ 2,000.00
WIP Model MicroFEM to MODFLOW	\$ -
Zoom	\$ 150.00
Total	\$ 69,770.00

Spokane Aquifer Joint Board
2026 Budget - Final - Approved November 20, 2025
Amended March 19, 2026

Committee - PROACTIVE BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Expense		2026 Budget	
Spokane River Forum - EnviroCertified Program		\$	5,000.00
Total		\$	5,000.00

Spokane Aquifer Joint Board
2026 Budget - Final - Approved November 20, 2025
Amended March 19, 2026

Committee - HOUSEHOLD CONTAMINANT DISPOSAL

Expense		2026 Budget	
SRF - Public Awareness - Waste & Recycle Directory		\$	5,000.00
Total		\$	5,000.00

Spokane Aquifer Joint Board
2026 Budget - Final - Approved November 20, 2025
Amended March 19, 2026

Committee - POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT SOURCE INVENTORY

Expense	2026 Budget	
Boese Water Resources. PCSI Research, Education and Awareness	\$	13,000.00
PCSI Mailing	\$	3,000.00
Total	\$	16,000.00

Spokane Aquifer Joint Board
2026 Budget - Final - Approved November 20, 2025
Amended March 19, 2026

Committee - CONSERVATION

Expense	2026 Budget	
SRF - Water Conservation and Aquifer Protection Directory	\$	5,000.00
Total	\$	5,000.00

Spokane Aquifer Joint Board
2026 Budget - Final - Approved November 20, 2025
Amended March 19, 2026

Committee - EDUCATION

Expense	2026 Budget	
2026 Education and Outreach (E&O) Campaign	\$	-
Aqua Duck Performances	\$	400.00
Cleaning Services for AquaDuck Costume and Tablecloth	\$	160.00
Graphic Design of Digital Ad Artwork (not associated with 2026 E&O Campaign)	\$	2,000.00
KSPS PBS	\$	45,000.00
Total	\$	47,560.00

Amendment Change Summary			
Item	Amount		Running total
Reduction in E&O line item	\$	(2,000.00)	\$ (2,000.00)
Addition to PCSI - mailing	\$	3,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Addition to ALL - promo materials	\$	5,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Total Change			\$ 5,000.00



Spokane Aquifer Joint Board
Local Water Utilities United for Safe Drinking Water

1521 N. Argonne Rd. Suite C PMB 250

Spokane Valley, WA 99212

sajbinfo@gmail.com

September 2026

Dear Business Owner or Manager,

The Spokane Aquifer Joint Board (SAJB) is a consortium of 21 public water providers that work together to protect the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, the sole source of drinking water for over half a million residents and businesses throughout Spokane County.

Your business is one of more than 2,100 facilities located over the Aquifer where certain activities or materials have the potential to impact groundwater if they are not properly stored, handled, or disposed of. As part of our Wellhead Protection Program, and in accordance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Washington's Wellhead Protection Rule, we periodically identify and notify owners and operators of potential contaminant sources within wellhead protection areas. This outreach is intended to provide education and resources that help prevent accidental contamination of our community's drinking water. Receiving this letter does not mean your business has caused contamination or is out of compliance with any regulations.

The Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer is especially vulnerable because it is composed of highly permeable sand, gravel, cobbles, and boulders deposited during the last Ice Age. Unlike many aquifers, it has little natural protection from contaminants at the surface. Spills, leaks, or improper disposal of chemicals can move quickly through the ground and may eventually reach public drinking water wells. In many commercial areas, storm drains can also provide a direct pathway for pollutants to enter the groundwater system.

If a hazardous or toxic spill occurs: Call 911 immediately. Then contact the Washington State Department of Ecology's 24-Hour Spill Response Line: 509-329-3400

Protecting our drinking water is a shared responsibility. Simple actions can make a significant difference, including:

- Store chemicals, fuels, and hazardous materials in properly labeled, leak-free containers.

- Keep spill kits readily available and train employees on spill response procedures.
- Regularly inspect tanks, containers, and equipment for leaks or signs of deterioration.
- Never pour chemicals, oil, paint, or wash water into storm drains or onto the ground.
- Properly dispose of hazardous wastes through approved recycling or disposal programs.
- Keep outdoor storage areas clean and protected from rainwater whenever possible.

Need help disposing of waste? The Spokane Waste & Recycle Directory is a free local resource that helps businesses and residents locate vendors for the safe disposal and recycling of hazardous and other wastes. It also provides health and environmental information for hundreds of common materials. You can search the website for proper disposal online at <https://spokaneriver.net/wastedirectory/>.

Your business may also qualify to become EnviroCertified—a free recognition program that recognizes businesses committed to pollution prevention, proper waste management, and resource conservation. You can find more information about this program at <https://www.envirocertified.org/>.

Thank you for helping protect one of our region's most valuable natural resources. Your commitment helps ensure that clean, safe drinking water remains available for our community today and for future generations.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about protecting the Aquifer, please contact your local water provider, the SAJB Program Manager at info@spokaneaquifer.org, or visit www.spokaneaquifer.org.

Submitted respectfully,
The Spokane Aquifer Joint Board

Jeremy Jenkins Digitally signed by Jeremy Jenkins
Date: 2026.08.21 10:19:39 -07'00'

Jeremy Jenkins, M.S.
President, Spokane Aquifer Joint Board
On Behalf of the Spokane Aquifer Joint Board
Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District

Meagan Hayes Digitally signed by Meagan Hayes
Date: 2026.08.21 10:23:38 -07'00'

Meagan Hayes
Program Manager

SAJB Members:

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 No. 16, 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 Water Company, North Spokane Irrigation District No. 8, Orchard Avenue Irrigation District, Pasadena Park Irrigation District No. 17, Spokane Business and Industrial Park, Spokane County Water District No. 3, Trentwood Irrigation District No. 3, Vera Water and Power, Whitworth Water District No. 2.



Spokane Aquifer Joint Board



Local Water Utilities United for Safe Drinking Water



The Spokane Aquifer Joint Board (SAJB) was formed in 1995. SAJB is comprised of 21 local water systems dedicated to protecting the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie (SVRP) Aquifer through the Wellhead Protection Program.

The SVRP Aquifer was designated a "sole source" aquifer in 1978 by the federal Environmental Protection Agency, which means it is the only source of drinking water for over 600,000 people.

So, let's all do our part to **protect the aquifer** from toxic waste and help **conserve water**.

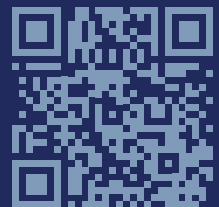
Member Purveyors

Carnhope Irrigation District No. 7
City of Spokane Water Department
Consolidated Irrigation District No. 19
East Spokane Water District No. 1
Honeywell Electronic Materials
Hutchison Irrigation District No. 16
Irvin Water District No. 6
Kaiser Aluminum Trentwood
Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District
Moab Irrigation District No. 20
Model Irrigation District No. 18

Modern Electric Water Company
North Spokane Irrigation District No. 8
Orchard Ave. Irrigation District No. 6
Pasadena Park Irrigation District No. 17
Spokane County Water District No. 3
Spokane Business & Industrial Park
City of Millwood Public Works
Trentwood Irrigation District No. 3
Vera Water and Power
Whitworth Water District No. 2

info@spokaneaquifer.org 
www.spokaneaquifer.org 

1521 North
Argonne Rd
#C PMB 250
Spokane
Valley,
WA 99212



FROM AQUIFER TO TAP WE CARE ABOUT OUR WATER

Spokane Aquifer Joint Board Wellhead Protection Program

Education and Outreach

SAJB collaborates with community organizations to create educational programs, publications, and activities for teachers, students, and the general public. SAJB publications are available at participating water utilities, online, or by reaching out via email.



Outdoor Watering
Nerds
Spokane and Kootenai County

Looking for Outdoor Watering Solutions? Outdoor Watering Nerds can connect you to Professionals and Do It Yourself resources for outdoor leak detection, sprinkler repair and retrofit, and landscape design. Find how-to videos, water saving tips, and water needs calculators.
www.outdoorwateringnerds.org

The Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Atlas is an interactive guide to the SVRP Aquifer, one of the region's most important natural resources. It provides clean drinking water to more than 500,000 people in eastern Washington and northern Idaho. The atlas explains the geographic, geologic, and hydrologic characteristics of the aquifer and Spokane River, historic timelines, water budgets, and what you can do to help protect the aquifer.



Resources for educators including an SVRP Aquifer Curriculum
25 aquifer and water related lesson plans for grades 3-5.

Aquifer In A Cup Workshops
SAJB partners with KSPS PBS to provide in-person, hands-on workshops for 2nd and 3rd students. info@spokaneaquifer.org.



Aqua Duck Comics and Activity Books
Join our hero Aqua Duck and the Aquifer Protection Team in their adventures to protect and conserve our drinking water.

Household Contaminant Disposal

SAJB works with local agencies to keep hazardous chemicals out of the Aquifer. You can do your part. Reduce your use of toxic products, choose safer alternatives, and dispose of HHW or recycling for free at a Transfer Station. Transfer Stations in Spokane County charge a fee for trash, organics, yard waste, and appliances.



North County Transfer Station/Recycling
22123 Elk-Chattaroy Rd. Colbert, WA 99005

Valley Transfer Station/Recycling
3941 N. Sullivan Road, Spokane Valley, WA 99216

University Transfer Station/Recycling
2405 N. University Rd. Spokane Valley, WA 99206

Waste to Energy Facility/Recycling
2900 S. Geiger Blvd., Spokane, WA 99224



For questions about proper waste disposal and recycling visit **The Spokane Kootenai Waste and Recycle Directory** www.spokanewastedirectory.org or call **The Spokane County Recycling Hotline** 509.477.6800.

Potential Contaminant Source Inventory

To protect water quality, SAJB maintains a database of potential contaminant sources. Businesses, in wellhead protection areas, are informed if their products, services, or waste could contaminate the aquifer and emergency information is provided. Knowing where potential contaminants are located helps us protect our drinking water. The SVRP Aquifer is our region's source of drinking water, so protecting the land above it is critical.

Proactive Business Assistance



WA Department of Ecology and Spokane Regional Health District offer no cost Pollution Prevention Assistance visits to businesses. SAJB is a sponsor of the EnviroCertified Program which recognizes businesses that properly manage hazardous wastes, conserve resources, or reduce food waste. Find out how to become certified at www.envirocertified.org.



Spokane Aquifer Joint Board
Local Water Utilities United for Safe Drinking Water

1521 N. Argonne Rd. Suite C PMB 250

Spokane Valley, WA 99212

sajbinfo@gmail.com

September 2026

(INSERT MAYOR/CHAIR NAME HERE)

Delivered via email to:

RE: Data Center Development and Protection of the Spokane Valley–Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer

The Spokane Aquifer Joint Board (SAJB) urges local governments to prohibit data-center development over the Spokane Valley–Rathdrum Prairie (SVRP) Aquifer.

The SVRP Aquifer is the region's sole source of municipal drinking water and an exceptionally sensitive groundwater system. Approximately 370 square miles of the aquifer extend across Washington and Idaho, and SAJB's 21 member water purveyors operate 152 wells in 103 wellfields in Spokane County. The aquifer's highly permeable geology and rapid groundwater movement make protecting it from contamination and unsustainable demands particularly important.

SAJB's concern is specifically the protection of water quantity, water quality, and drinking-water sources. We recognize that local governments must separately consider land use, zoning, economic development, energy infrastructure, transportation, noise, and other issues associated with data-center development. Those matters are outside SAJB's area of expertise and responsibility.

Our concern is what data-center development means for the water resource on which our communities depend.

A changing climate makes additional large water demands particularly concerning

SAJB's 2025 MODFLOW Study provides updated information about groundwater movement and capture zones for SAJB-member wells. The study uses an updated three-dimensional groundwater-flow model to delineate 1-, 5-, and 10-year groundwater capture zones and identify areas contributing groundwater to individual drinking-water wells.

The accompanying Climate Impact Analysis on the SVRP Aquifer evaluates projected changes in groundwater levels, recharge, and Spokane River flows under future climate scenarios. The analysis

projects significant reductions in summer Spokane River flows and generally lower groundwater levels during portions of the late spring and summer. It also notes that the analysis does not include increased future pumping by most municipal water suppliers and that additional pumping could further affect groundwater levels.

These findings are important when considering a new category of large-scale industrial water use

Data-center water consumption varies significantly by cooling technology. Some systems can substantially reduce direct consumption, while evaporative cooling systems can require significant quantities of water. Regardless of the technology proposed, a new large water demand should not be evaluated independently of the long-term changes already projected for our regional water system.

Each project must be evaluated on its actual water use

SAJB recognizes that every data-center project will be different, and each water purveyor has different infrastructure, water sources, operating conditions, and available capacity.

For that reason, if a jurisdiction considers a data-center proposal, SAJB believes the project should be evaluated in direct coordination with the water purveyor expected to serve the facility, and that coordination should occur as early as possible.

At a minimum, the project should clearly establish:

- Maximum water demand at full buildout;
- The source of that water;
- Actual consumptive use, including evaporation;
- Whether potable drinking water would be used for cooling and, if so, why reclaimed water could not be used;
- Whether water would be discharged, reused, or returned to the aquifer;
- The temperature and chemical characteristics of any water returned to the aquifer;
- The composition and destination of cooling-system wastewater;
- Impacts to existing water and wastewater infrastructure; and
- Water requirements and operating conditions during drought, water shortages, or emergencies.

A closed-loop cooling system should not automatically be assumed to have no water-resource impact simply because water is returned to the aquifer. The quality, temperature, location, and timing of that return are all relevant to protecting a drinking-water source.

Consider the cumulative impact

Individual project review is important, but it is not enough to consider each facility in isolation.

Local governments should also consider the potential cumulative effect of multiple large water users drawing from the same aquifer. SAJB's regional groundwater model provides a tool for understanding how groundwater moves through the system and how pumping can affect individual well capture zones.

Before approving a new category of large industrial water use, we believe jurisdictions should be able to answer a basic question: How much additional industrial water demand can the SVRP Aquifer sustainably accommodate while protecting existing municipal drinking-water supplies under future climate conditions?

That question should be informed by the Washington State Department of Ecology's water-quantity requirements, the Washington State Department of Health's drinking-water requirements, SAJB's groundwater science and wellhead-protection information, and the water purveyor's assessment of its own system.

Protect the aquifer before the risk is created

The SVRP Aquifer cannot simply be replaced if its quality or long-term availability is compromised. SAJB's wellhead protection program, groundwater modeling, and climate analysis all reflect the same underlying principle: protecting a drinking-water source is most effective before a contaminant or other significant impact occurs.

For that reason, SAJB respectfully asks local governments to:

- **Prohibit data-center development over the SVRP Aquifer; or:**
- Use SAJB's current MODFLOW modeling, capture-zone delineations, climate-impact analysis, and wellhead-protection information when making water-related land-use decisions;
- Consult with the water purveyor expected to serve a proposed data center as early as possible;
- Evaluate both project-specific and cumulative water demands;
- Require clear information regarding cooling water, consumption, wastewater, and any return of water to the aquifer; and
- Coordinate with the Washington State Department of Ecology and Department of Health regarding applicable water-quantity and water-quality requirements.

SAJB's position is grounded in the unique vulnerability of the SVRP Aquifer and our region's dependence upon it for drinking water. At a time when our own regional modeling projects

additional climate-related pressure on water resources, we believe adding a new class of potentially significant industrial water users over this sole-source aquifer is an unnecessary risk.

We urge local governments to protect the aquifer through prevention rather than relying on mitigation after development occurs.

Submitted respectfully,
The Spokane Aquifer Joint Board

Jeremy Jenkins, M.S.
President, Spokane Aquifer Joint Board
On Behalf of the Spokane Aquifer Joint Board
Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District

SAJB Members:

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 No. 16, 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 Water Company, North Spokane Irrigation District No. 8, Orchard Avenue Irrigation District, Pasadena Park Irrigation District No. 17, Spokane Business and Industrial Park, Spokane County Water District No. 3, Trentwood Irrigation District No. 3, Vera Water and Power, Whitworth Water District No. 2.

Ecc:

Planning Commission Members
City Council and/or other Board of County Commissioners
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