



News Release

Sunshine Coast Regional District Announces Ban on all Outdoor Tap Water Use

Sechelt, BC – August 10, 2015— Our water supply is at risk due to prolonged dry weather. Effective August 13, 2015, and until further notice, the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) has declared Stage 4 outdoor water use restrictions for all regional water customers South of Pender Harbour.

“The community’s water conservation efforts during this period of drought have been remarkable” says Bryan Shoji, SCRD General Manager of Infrastructure Services. “Water use has decreased by approximately 40% since going to Stage 3. Unfortunately, this unprecedented hot and dry weather has resulted in drier conditions within the watershed, which is causing our available water supply to deplete more rapidly as time goes on. As these weather conditions are forecasted to continue into the fall, Stage 4 restrictions are necessary in order to extend our available water supply into the fall when the probability of rain increases.”

Stage 4 Outdoor Water Use Restrictions apply to all water users, including residential and commercial, with the exception of commercial food growers with farm status and water meters, and include a **BAN ON ALL OUTDOOR TAP WATER USE**. Under these drought conditions, water use priorities focus on water for human health, firefighting and environmental flows.

DO NOT:

- Use tap water for any outdoor water use, this includes tap water through garden hoses, watering cans, irrigation systems or laid sprinklers
- Fill residential swimming pools, hot tubs, wading pools, garden ponds and fountains
- Wash driveways, sidewalks, vehicles, boats or other equipment
- Use power washers

PLEASE DO:

- Conserve water with every opportunity inside your home
- Use clean grey water (e.g. water from a bathtub or sink) for watering outdoor plants and vegetables

“Right now in this time of water scarcity, we encourage all people to only use water for essential uses” says Garry Nohr, SCRD Board Chair.

In addition to water conservation measures, the SCRD is working to deploy an emergency backup system to access water in lower reaches of Chapman Lake. It is further recognized in the SCRD’s Comprehensive Regional Water Plan that the water supply needs to be expanded and the SCRD has been working to move this plan forward in a timely manner.

Enforcement staff are increasing patrols and violators will be fined. Avoid fines and protect your drinking water supply by eliminating all outdoor water use. To report violators contact the SCRD at 604-

885-6806 or the Town of Gibsons 604-886-2274. Visit www.scrd.ca/Sprinkling-Regulations for details on water use restrictions.

- 30 -

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