

Chapman Drinking Water Watershed Source Assessment Response Plan Information Sheet

The Sunshine Coast Regional District has partnered with the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority to develop a Source Assessment Response Plan (SARP) for the Chapman Creek drinking water watershed.

The purpose of the SARP is to enhance the protection of drinking water in the Chapman watershed by minimizing risks to drinking water quality through best management practices. SARP has been developed with an understanding that, under current legislation, completely eliminating industry-related risks is not an option at this point.

The SARP is legislated under the *Drinking Water Protection Act*. The *Drinking Water Protection Act* (DWPA) establishes certain requirements for drinking water suppliers to ensure the provision of safe drinking water for their customers. Under section 22 (2) of the DWPA, the Drinking Water Officer can order the water supplier to develop a SARP.

Who was involved in the development of the draft SARP?

The development of the draft SARP was overseen by a Technical Working Group (TWG) composed of First Nations and stakeholders with a physical presence in the Chapman drinking water watershed and/or the ability to implement management measures in the watershed. Members were:

- AJB Investments
- BC Parks
- BC Timber Sales
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Ministry of Energy and Mines
- Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations
- SCRD Board
- SCRD Natural Resource Advisory Committee
- Sechelt Indian Band
- Sunshine Coast Community Forests
- Sunshine Coast Conservation Association
- Tetrahedron Outdoors Club
- Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
- Western Forests Products

The SARP is also vetted through the SCRD's Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC), which is a citizen committee consisting of up to 12 members of the public. NRAC's role and purpose includes making recommendations to the SCRD Board on natural resource issues.

What are the hazards to Drinking water quality in the Chapman watershed?

In 2006, a Chapman Creek Source Assessment was conducted that identified 23 hazards and associated risks to drinking water quality. 14 of these are characterized as high or moderate risk, and are included in the SARP. The remaining 9 low-risk hazards are not included in the plan. The 14 risks to drinking water quality that are addressed in the SARP are as follows:

1. High precipitation and run-off
2. Wildlife and birds
3. Forestry activity
4. Human access to watershed
5. Water demand during low flow periods
6. Wildfires
7. Past forestry activity
8. Future mining activity
9. Recreation activity
10. Climate change impacts
11. Landslides and natural disaster events
12. Bird and wind transport from landfill
13. Illegal dumping
14. Water demand due to development

How does the SARP address the identified risks?

The SARP provides a set of management and site specific response actions that the SCRD, First Nations, licensed stakeholders and agencies can reasonably undertake (according to Section 22 (2) of the Drinking Water Protection Act) to reduce or mitigate the risks to the drinking water quality in the Chapman Creek watershed. 69 action items are identified and included in the response plan.

These response actions are given a priority within each hazard, and a ranking within all hazards. The recommended actions to mitigate the identified hazards and risks include provisions for:

- Infrastructure improvements
- Management practices
- Cooperative planning
- Education and outreach
- Studies and investigation work

Next Steps

1. Public Consultation and Adoption of SARP

- Public consultation on the draft SARP will occur over a three month period and **ends on March 9, 2012**. The goal is to inform as many citizens as possible of the SARP development and elicit public feedback; main actions include notifying other Local Governments, community groups and agencies, newspaper bulletins and 2 open houses scheduled for February 4, 2012 (for more info on the Open Houses visit www.scrd.ca).
- Target Adoption date – April 12, 2012

2. Implementation

- The SCRD will build recommended actions into annual work plans and budget processes.
- Other stakeholders and agencies to incorporate recommended actions into their business plans and operations.

3. Monitoring

- The Vancouver Coastal Health Authority will monitor the progress of the implementation process and resulting actions.