



BC Parks Open House (May 2, 2018) Frequently Asked Questions

The following are frequently asked questions directed at the Sunshine Coast Regional District from members of the public who attended an open house held on May 2, 2018 in Sechelt, BC. The Open House was organised and hosted by BC Parks as part of their public consultation process on the proposed reclassification of Tetrahedron Provincial Park.

Q. Was water availability considered before building permits were handed out?

A. The Comprehensive Regional Water Plan was developed with a high population growth scenario of 2% per year. We have seen a 0.9% growth per year between the 2011 and 2016 Census.

Q. Can funds for the proposed drawdown be easily reallocated to a storage facility instead? Or would the SCRD have to reapply for funds for a storage facility?

A. The SCRD would have to go through a new elector approval process to borrow funds for a Raw Water Reservoir and cannot transfer the funds approved for the Chapman Lake Expansion Project to another project.

Q. Has there been consultation with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans about down-stream impacts on salmon?

A. Stream flows for salmon, also known as Environmental Flow Needs (EFN) are regulated by the provincial Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. The EFN for Chapman Creek has been determined based on the best science available. The SCRD controls the flows to ensure the EFNs are met.

Q. Have water towers been considered?

A. Water towers are meant to provide pressure for the water distribution system as well as a reservoir for fire flows. The SCRD has 11 (Chapman System) reservoirs that fulfill these functions. These reservoirs do not need to be on a tower because they are all situated at a higher elevation.

Q. Why did the SCRD not attend the Open House?

A. The Open House held on May 2, 2018 was organised and hosted by BC Parks as part of their public consultation process. The subject of the open house was the proposed status change for Tetrahedron Park and hence outside the jurisdiction of the SCRD.

Q. What studies have been undertaken for other water sources?

A. All available sources in the area have been explored and the projects proposed in the Comprehensive Regional Water Plan in 2013 that are currently considered for development are the most affordable and have the least impact on the environment.

In 2007 Clowhom Lake was explored as an additional water supply option. At the time, construction costs were estimated at \$100 million with \$2.3 million per year in operating costs. The environmental impacts of building an access road and water transmission main also must be considered. Therefore it was not considered a feasible water supply source in the Comprehensive Regional Water Plan.

Q. If a method to draw down the lake is reached, does it only occur once Stage 4 is in effect?

A. Once draw down begins, do we then go back to Stage 1 or 2 or stay at Stage 4?
Current direction from the SCR D Board is that the proposed additional lake drawdown can only be used when Stage 4 is in effect. Stage 4 will continue to stay in place until sufficient rain has fallen to refill Chapman lake significantly.

Q. Is anyone talking about stopping the increase of demand for water? Why allow more?

A. The SCR D has a goal of reducing water demand by 33% by 2020 from 2010 levels. Average daily demand has gone down on the Sunshine Coast in the last 8 years even though population has increased. This is due to greater conservation efforts and fixing leaks in the water distribution system.

Q. How about a moratorium on residential development until you all figure out what to do?

A. To date the SCR D Board has not given direction to initiate a residential development moratorium.