



News Release

SCRD Activates Emergency Operations Centre in Response to Drought Situation

Sechelt, BC – August 23, 2021— Due to the ongoing significant drought period in the Region, the Sunshine Coast Regional District activated its Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) this morning.

“Activating our EOC ensures that we are ready should we need to call a state of emergency on the Sunshine Coast due to the drought situation,” says EOC Director Dean McKinley. “Our staff are working around the clock to do everything we can to keep water flowing through the Chapman Water System. Our EOC is in place to support these staff and plan ahead should we need emergency support from the Province to secure water supply for residents, fire suppression and the Sechelt Hospital.”

The following measures are underway immediately through the EOC.

- Letters are being sent to high water users who have been identified as using an above average amount of water per day advising them to reduce their consumption.
- Water shut off notices are being sent to residents who have leaks and have received prior notice from the SCRDR asking them to fix their leaks.
- Enforcement is being stepped up with a revised approach to include the issuing of \$500 fines without residents first receiving educational materials or a warning.
- The SCRDR is in close contact with Environment Canada to ensure quality, updated weather data is available to the EOC.
- SCRDR staff are discussing the potential for the Town of Gibsons to help supplement the Chapman Water System.

“Looking at the water use data over the past week, it appears as though we still have residents on the Chapman Water System who are outdoor watering and not following Stage 4 Water Regulations,” says Remko Rosenboom, General Manager of Infrastructure Services. “I am asking anyone who is not following Stage 4 Water Regulations to do so immediately, you have the potential to help all of us who live on the Sunshine Coast avoid an emergency situation.”

Should the SCRDR call a state of emergency, the following are some of the actions that may be taken.

- Water supply for residents, the Sechelt Hospital and fire suppression would be prioritized over all non-essential use.
- SCRDR staff are developing plans to draw water from Edwards Lake with the use of siphons. This plan would be subject to a number of regulatory approvals before being implemented.
- Water may be trucked to communities in the Region.
- Travel to the Sunshine Coast may be limited to essential travel only.

Stay tuned to the [SCRD on Facebook](#), the [SCRD Website](#) and the [Let's Talk SCRD](#) engagement platform for updates on the EOC, water use and conservation.

For information on Stage 4 Water Conservation Regulations visit www.scrd.ca/sprinkling-regulations

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Media contact:

Aidan Buckley
EOC Information Officer
Sunshine Coast Regional District
Phone: 604-885-8052
aidan.buckley@scrd.ca