



News Release

Changes to Water Conservation Regulations in 2022

Sechelt, BC—April 11, 2022—At the March 24 Regular Board meeting, the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) Board adopted changes to the Drought Response Plan (Bylaw 422).

The Drought Response Plan is the primary tool for minimizing impacts to water supplies caused by summer drought or unforeseen shortage situations such as emergencies or other major service disruptions. The SCR D's Drought Response Plan is reviewed regularly to adapt to changing conditions, promote efficient water use, and improve clarity.

"The areas considered for review and change were based on staff experiences and observations through the summer months," says Remko Rosenboom, General Manager, Infrastructure Services. "These include community interactions and feedback, water meter data, and neighbourhood staff patrols."

The changes approved by the Board include:

1. Permits for watering new lawns are no longer available. These permits allowed for watering beyond authorized times and resulted in higher water use. New lawns should be established in early spring prior to possible summer droughts. There is no lawn watering in Stage 2 and above.
2. Hand-watering and drip-irrigation at Stages 2 and 3 is limited to mornings and evenings to reduce evaporation and the significant amount of water use that occurs when no limits are in place.
3. A new definition for "drip-irrigation system" was added to exclude less efficient technologies like micro-irrigation. Micro-irrigation systems with spray emitters operate at higher water pressures compared to drip-irrigation systems and use more water.
4. A two-week exemption for farms paying a metered rate for water at the start of Stage 4 (severe). All other outdoor water use is prohibited in Stage 4.

"The Church Road Well Field Project will not be completed until late summer 2022, and we are asking the community to conserve as much water as possible this coming spring and summer to help us plan ahead for a potentially dry summer," says Rosenboom. "These adopted bylaw changes will further help us prepare for impacts associated with climate change, including increasing severity and frequency of drought situations."

Stage 1 Water Conservation Regulations will begin on May 1.

For more information on water conservation regulations visit www.scrd.ca/sprinkling-regulations.

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