



## News Release

### EOC Update – Why are we still in Stage 4?

Sechelt, BC—December 7, 2022— The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is continuing work to secure water supply for users on the Chapman Water System. An update on our current water supply situation is below.

Stage 4 water conservation regulations **remain in place** for the Chapman Water System.

The SCRD is aware of some questions that the community have at this time, particularly around our Emergency Operations Centre and why Stage 4 Water Conservation Regulations are still in place.

#### **Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)**

On September 27, 2022, the SCRD activated an EOC in response to concerns around our long- and short-term water supply. An EOC consists of staff who take on additional responsibilities to assist in the coordinated response to the emergency (in this case ensuring that water supply is available for Chapman Water System users).

These staff work with external interested parties, both locally (such as the School District, Sechelt Hospital and Local Governments) and provincially (such as Emergency Management B.C. and provincial health agencies). This work allows for a coordinated approach to an emergency situation. The number of staff in an EOC can increase or decrease based on the severity of the emergency.

At this time, the SCRD continues to have about a dozen staff committed to daily EOC duties. In addition, resources have been provided through Emergency Management B.C. to assist in our response.

#### **Stage 4**

A question that we know is being asked in the community at this time is, “Why are we still in Stage 4?”

Due to 100-days of drought, followed by immediate freezing at our main water sources, Chapman and Edwards Lakes, we have been in a period of relative unknown for the past few weeks. In response to this, through work in the EOC, plans are being developed to bring other water sources online if needed.

Throughout November, flows from Chapman Lake and in Chapman Creek were unpredictable and fluctuating based on freezing and thawing in the area around upper Chapman Creek and

rainfall in lower Chapman Creek. However, due to the relatively stable and dry weather over the past few days we have seen the longest period of stability in flows in the Creek in months.

Once again, SCRD staff will travel to Chapman Lake in the coming days. Once more is known about the level of the lake and we have an increased confidence that water supply has been secured into the Spring, decisions can be made about the potential for Stage 4 Water Conservation Regulations to be scaled back.

### **Sunshine Coast Arena**

The SCRD is also aware of conversations online and questions that have been asked about the ice installation at the Sunshine Coast Arena. To clarify, water from the Chapman Water System was used to install ice at the facility and continues to be used to maintain the ice. Updates on the use of water from other sources to maintain the ice will be shared when available.

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