



News Release

State of Local Emergency Cancelled, Stage 4 Water Regulations Remain

Sechelt, BC—November 18, 2022— The State of Local Emergency (SOLE), enacted due to the water supply emergency has been cancelled. This applies to SOLEs that were issued by the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD), the shíshálh Nation Government District and the District of Sechelt. **Stage 4 Water Conservation Regulations remain in place.**

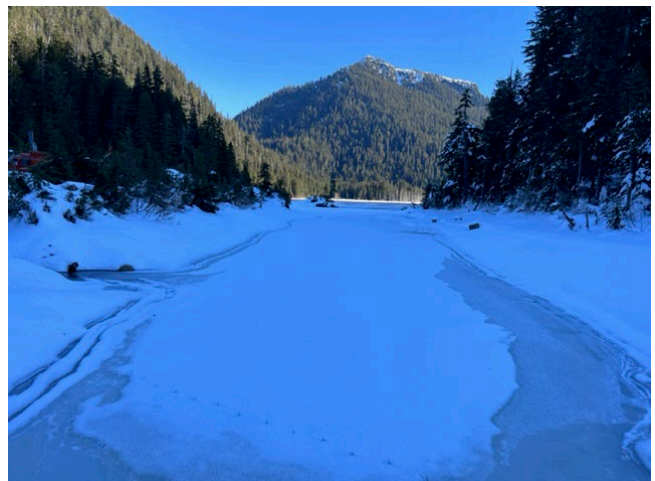
Yesterday, the SCRD received updated creek flow monitoring information that showed creek flows are high enough at this time to cancel the SOLE. After a storm in early November, staff noticed that the amount of water being indicated by monitoring equipment in Chapman Creek was lower than expected given the amount of rain that was falling. This past week, staff have worked with consultants on other forms of measuring the creek flow to ensure that the best information is available to inform important decisions being made through the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).

Additionally, SCRD staff went to Chapman Lake yesterday. Available water in the channel has increased slightly thanks to some snow melt in the watershed due to warmer than expected temperatures. This, combined with new data from Chapman Creek has indicated that enough water is available for community use under Stage 4 Water Conservation Regulations to cancel the SOLE.

Updated images of Chapman Lake are available below.



Chapman Lake, November 17



Chapman Lake channel, November 17

“Our staff have worked hard to get us to this point and I’d like to recognize what they have done to ensure our community has had uninterrupted access to water through a 100-day summer drought and an unprecedented transition to freezing events at Chapman and Edwards lakes,” says SCRD Board Chair Leonard Lee. “I also want to recognize the high level of support provided to the SCRD to date by the Provincial Government through Emergency Management B.C. as we dealt with the emergency.”

The SCRD’s Emergency Operations Centre remains active and Stage 4 Water Conservation Regulations are still in place. Rain is in the forecast next week so staff will monitor each rain event and the effect on recharging of the Chapman Watershed to see if Stage 4 Water Conservation Regulations can be lifted. Until the soils in the Chapman watershed are fully recharged, there is an ongoing risk that an extended period of cold and dry weather could put the water supply for the Chapman water system at risk.

“Over the last four months, our community has stepped up to conserve water during this unprecedented period of drought,” says John Henderson, Mayor of the District of Sechelt. “The fact is that we need rain regularly over several weeks to replenish our existing system. In the meantime, we will continue our work with the SCRD to ensure that water sources are brought online as quickly as possible to address any supply emergencies in the coming weeks.”

“These past few months have shown the effects of climate change on our land and water supply,” says hiwus Warren Paull with the shíshálh Nation. “Moving forward, there must be a collaborative approach with all levels of government involved to secure water supply for the Region.”

Further information on water supply in the Chapman Water System will be provided late next week. All previous updates and orders can be found at www.scrd.ca/alerts.

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Media Enquiries:

Aidan Buckley,
EOC Information Officer
Sunshine Coast Regional District
Phone: 604-885-6800
Email: aidan.buckley@scrd.ca