



## News Release

### Water Supply Update – Stage 4 Still in Place

Sechelt, BC—November 23, 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.

#### Water Conservation Regulations

Stage 4 Water Conservation Regulations remain in place for the Chapman Water System. While rainfall is contributing to immediate supply, freezing conditions at Chapman and Edwards Lake is still putting longer term supply at risk.

To better explain this, consider the land, also known as the watershed around the lakes and creek as being like a sponge. During the Summer drought, the sponge was dry with no water coming through it. Due to the quick move from drought to freezing conditions at the lakes, the sponge (watershed) around the lakes is now dry and frozen with water running off of it. Until staff see a substantial increase in water in the creek and lakes, water conservation regulations must remain in place. These regulations are reassessed daily.

#### Chapman Water Supply

At this time, the Chapman Water System is being supplied solely by Chapman Creek. Freezing temperatures are expected later this week. Staff will monitor the effect of freezing temperatures on available supply to ensure that other water sources can be brought online should they be necessary.

Pictures of Chapman and Edwards Lakes, taken last Thursday (November 17) are below.



Chapman Lake, November 17



Edwards Lake, November 17

### Other Water Sources

A number of water sources are available should they be needed at this time. These include:

- The interim setup at Church Road Well Field
- Emergency water supply from the Town of Gibsons
- Gray Creek and Trout Lake.

Both Gray Creek and Trout Lake would require a boil water advisory and would only be brought online if absolutely necessary. A boil water advisory would be communicated with as much notice as possible to the community via the SCRD website, social media, radio ads, signage in the affected areas and local media. A boil water advisory would require that water be brought to a rolling boil for one minute, before cooling to an appropriate temperature before use.

### Weather Forecast

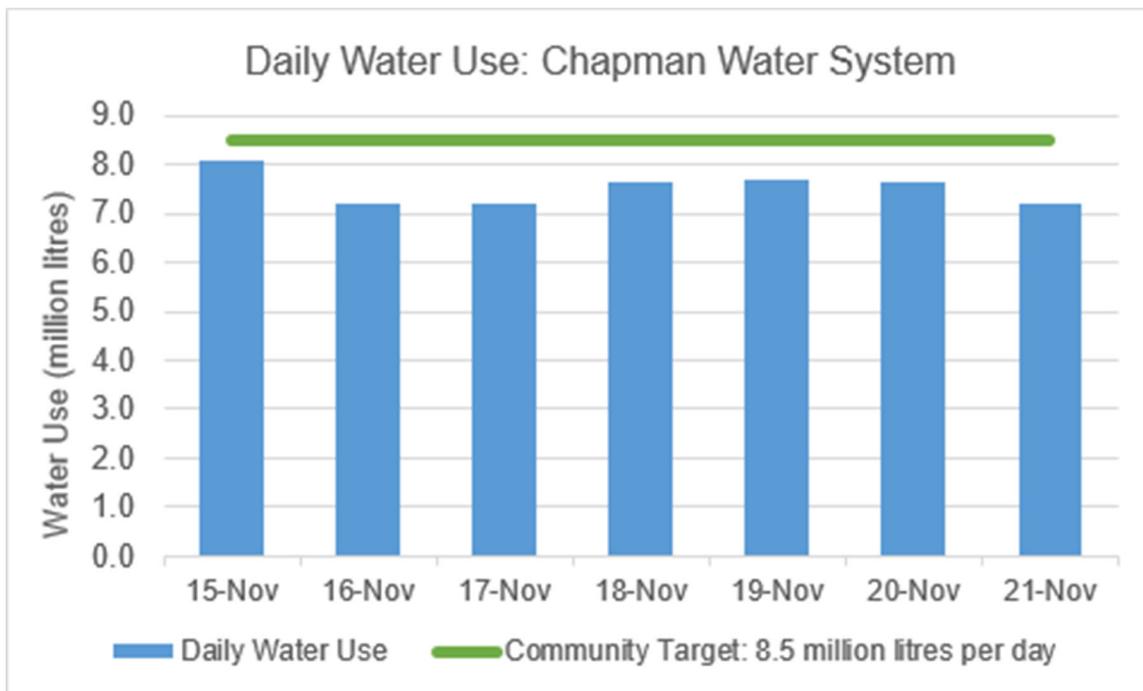
More rain is forecast for later this week and temperatures will likely remain below freezing in the upper watershed. Nighttime freezing temperatures will return to sea level this weekend.

### Leaks

Last week, five water shut off notices were sent to properties which, accumulatively are leaking over 40,000 litres of water per day. Staff are continuing to work with these properties to have the leaks addressed as soon as possible.

### Community Use

Community use remains under the targeted amount of 8.5 million litres per day. The SCRD appreciates all the efforts being made to reduce water use as we look to secure water supply for the coming months.



“We know that there are lots of questions, particularly as we see more rain events about why the Chapman system remains on Stage 4 water conservation regulations,” says Remko Rosenboom, EOC Director. “We do not know how the land around Chapman Creek will act in the coming couple of weeks as we first see increased rain and subsequently freezing temperatures return to the lower Chapman Creek watershed. Until we have data that shows that more water is making its way into the lakes and creek to support our longer-term water supply, we must stay on our current water conservation regulations.”

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