



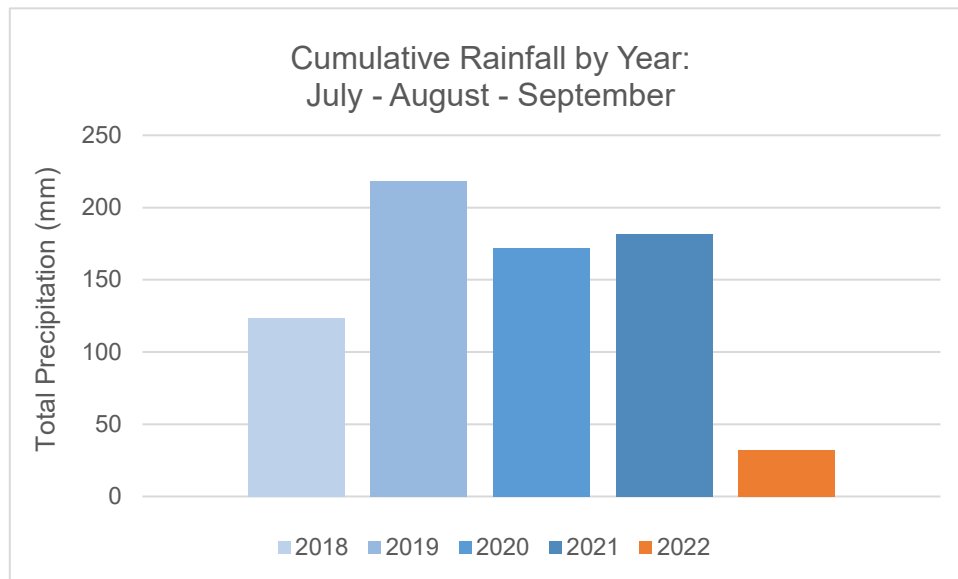
News Release

Water Supply Update – Every Drop Counts

Sechelt, BC—October 12, 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.

Weather Forecast

The SCRD receives regular updated weather forecasts from Environment Canada. Unfortunately, there is no rain in the immediate forecast. Given the current unprecedented low lake levels, over 150 mm of rain is required to recharge the Chapman Watershed and allow for a scale back on water use regulations. As you will see from the graph below, we have seen little or no rain at Sechelt Airport in comparison to other years.



Edwards Lake

Siphons were installed at Edwards Lake last week and have been supplementing water supply for the Chapman Water System. Three siphons are operational and have been adding 230 litres of water per second. As this lake is drawing down quickly, the SCRD is determining whether moving the siphons will extend water supply further.



Edwards Lake, October 7



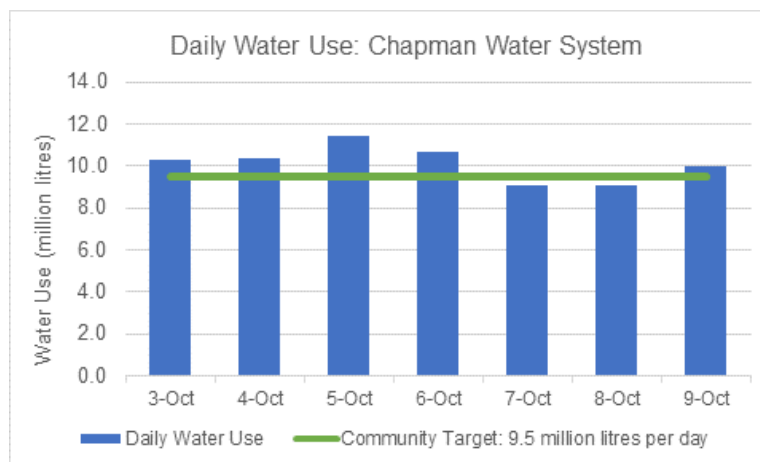
Chapman Lake, October 7

Chapman Lake

Chapman Lake levels continue to drop with much of the lake shores now exposed. Again, at this lake, the SCR D is exploring the options of moving the siphon system or installing pumps to access more water. The SCR D is also in discussion with the Provincial and Federal Governments around environmental flow needs (EFN). Currently, the SCR D releases water from Chapman Lake to Chapman Creek for both human consumption and for environmental flow. This environmental flow helps to support fish and the creek’s aquatic ecosystem. In accordance with our permit, the SCR D releases roughly 1.7 times more water for EFN than for human consumption. A reduction in this EFN would allow for more water to be available for community use and would further extend our water supply.

Community Use

Over the weekend, community use dipped below 10 million litres per day. This is great news and the SCR D wants to recognize everyone who is conserving water each and every day. The targeted consumption continues to be **9.5 million litres per day** which will further help secure water supply into early November. Small changes such as halving shower times and running washes on full loads has the potential to make a big difference, if we all take these actions together. Last week the SCR D [released this poster](#) which gives some guidance on just how much water can be easily saved in your home each day.



Enforcement, Leaks & High Users

To date, 64 warnings and ten fines have been issued by the SCRD to people who are not following water conservation regulations. Unfortunately, there are some members of our community who are blatantly ignoring water conservation regulations. Just this weekend the SCRD received multiple reports of overnight watering and pressure washing. Staff are following up on these complaints.

Letters to businesses and institutions identified as being high water users were sent out last week. The letters included conservation measures that these users must take immediately to reduce their use.

The SCRD is continuing to issue notification to residents who have been identified as having leaks on their property. Many of these leaks are being resolved quickly.

Church Road and Water Meters

The SCRD is receiving questions from the community in relation to the Church Road Well Field and the implementation of the water meter program in Sechelt.

A request for proposal for a company to install water meters in Sechelt is currently under review. Once this has been issued, the SCRD will select a vendor to install the meters. It is anticipated that the water meter program will begin with installations in early 2023.

The Church Road Well Field is still under development. Unfortunately, this project has been delayed due to construction delays and completely unforeseen supply chain issues which are holding up projects across Canada. The SCRD is however looking at potential ways that water supply may be taken from the Church Road Well Field with the use of a generator and some alternative plumbing in the Church Road Water Treatment Plant. It is anticipated that an update on this will be available next week.

Other Water Supply

The Town of Gibsons continues to supply the SCRD with up to one-million litres of water per day. This is roughly ten percent of daily use. In addition, this week the SCRD is determining what it would take to bring Trout Lake online to supplement water supply.

Community Support

The SCRD wants to express a sincere thanks to members of our community who have offered support or kind words in the past week. Our staff have once again worked through the weekend as we continue emergency efforts to secure water supply. While we understand that there is frustration with regard our water supply situation, it will take a community effort to extend our water supply until we receive rain on the Sunshine Coast.

The SCRD is grateful to institutions in our community such as the Sechelt Hospital which has taken measures such as sending laundry off-coast to reduce water use and School District 46 which has taken a number of water conservation measures in schools across the Coast.

Updates

You can watch water supply updates [here on YouTube](#) and on our Facebook Page. In addition, further updates will be provided via news releases at www.scrd.ca as and when they are available.

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