



## News Release

### Emergency Operations Centre Activated Due to Significant Drought Period

Sechelt, BC—September 27, 2022— As a result of continued drought in the Region, the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) has activated an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to ensure additional emergency planning can occur to secure water supply for the Chapman Water System.

“The last day of significant rainfall on the Sunshine Coast was over 80 days ago on July 6, and Environment Canada has informed us not to expect any significant rainfall for at least the next two weeks,” says Dean McKinley, Chief Administrative Officer with the SCRD. “We are at a point where we need to put additional emergency planning in place for water users on the Chapman System.”

The siphon system has been operational at Chapman Lake since Stage 4 Water Conservation Regulations began on August 31. These siphons operate near the centre of the lake and pull additional water from the lake, over the dam and into Chapman Creek.

Chapman Lake is now at historic low levels (see picture below) so next week, subject to approval from BC Parks, Ministry of Forests and the shíshálh Nation, the SCRD will install new siphons at Edwards Lake. This will allow for more water to be drawn from Edwards Lake, also located in the Chapman Watershed and is the SCR D’s secondary reservoir after Chapman Lake.



Picture: Chapman Lake, Wednesday September 21

The SCRD has already put in place the following additional conservation measures:

- Enforcement has been ramped up with \$500 fines for anyone found to be using drinking water for outdoor use.
- Letters were sent to high water users, who have been identified as using an above average amount of water per day, that advise them to reduce their consumption.
- Water shut off notices were sent to residents who have leaks and have received prior notice from the SCRD asking them to fix their leaks. Many of these leaks are being resolved quickly.
- The Town of Gibsons has advised the SCRD that they can provide water to supplement the Chapman Water System.

“On the water conservation front, users on the Chapman System are close to hitting our targeted amount of 10 million litres used per day,” says Mia Edbrooke, Acting General Manager of Infrastructure Services.

“Unfortunately, we are still receiving reports and hearing of members of our community watering lawns and using pressure washers. We are in a critical time right now and we need everybody to work together to secure our water supply into late October.”

Stay tuned to the [SCRD on Facebook](#) and the [SCRD Website](#) for updates on the EOC, water use and conservation.

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