



DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN

Last revised: March 10, 2022

Table of Contents

1.0	Introduction	page 2
2.0	Purpose	page 2
3.0	Definitions	page 2
4.0	Applicability	page 3
5.0	Determining Stage Restrictions	page 3
6.0	Water Use Restrictions	
	6.1 Stage 1	page 4
	6.2 Stage 2	page 5
	6.3 Stage 3.....	page 6
	6.4 Stage 4.....	page 7
7.0	Vacant Land	page 8
8.0	Communications	page 8
9.0	Waste of water	page 8
10.0	Enforcement	page 8
11.0	Schedules	
	Schedule "A": Water Conservation Regulations Chart	page 9
	Schedule "B": Summary of Communication Plan	page 10

1.0 Introduction

The SCRD's Drought Response Plan is the primary tool for minimizing impacts to water supplies caused by summer drought or unforeseen water shortage situations. The Plan prescribes water use restrictions leading up to, during, and following periods of drought, with an emphasis on curbing outdoor water use. Restrictions follow four stages, reflecting the level of risk of a water shortage. A detailed communications plan is implemented at each stage in order to reduce water consumption by changing behaviour.

2.0 Purpose

The purpose of the Drought Response Plan is to manage demand for drinking water during the summer months or during other unforeseen water shortage situations such as emergencies or major service disruptions. A Drought Response Plan is necessary in order to:

- Ensure drinking water can be delivered to all users during summer months when rainfall levels are lowest and demand for water is highest.
- Guide local behaviour change to reduce the outdoor use of potable water
- Ensure adequate water and pressure is maintained for fire protection during peak use periods.
- Ensure water sources continue to support fish and ecosystem functions.
- Be prepared for further uncertainties associated with climate change including increasing severity and frequency of drought situations.

3.0 Definitions

- "Drought" is a recurrent feature of climate involving a deficiency of precipitation over an extended period of time, resulting in a water shortage for activities, communities or aquatic ecosystems. Locally, drought may be caused by combinations of insufficient snow accumulation, hot and dry weather, or a delay in rainfall.
- "Engineer" means the person holding the position of the General Manager of Infrastructure Services / Regional Engineer for the Regional District or designate.
- "Drip-irrigation System" means an irrigation system that operates at a pressure less than 138 kPa (20 psi) and delivers water directly to the plant root zone through individual emission points or emitters using droplets of water where each emitter use less than 7.6 litres per hour, and excludes sprinkler irrigation systems, micro-spray systems, misting systems, weeper hoses, and soaker hoses.
- "Person" includes any corporation, partnership or party and heirs, executors, administrators, or other legal representatives of such person, to whom the context can apply according to law.

- "Public Sector Entity" means federal and provincial government agencies, municipalities, school districts, universities, colleges and other schools.
- "Sprinkler" means the application or distribution of water on gardens, lawns or grounds by sprinkling or spraying, including sprinkler irrigation systems, micro-spray systems, misting systems, weeper hoses, and soaker hoses, but excludes hand watering or drip-irrigation (see definition above).
- "Stage" means the Stages 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Water Use Restrictions prescribed by Section 6 of this Plan.
 - "Stage 1" water supply conditions shall also be known as Normal.
 - "Stage 2" water supply conditions shall also be known as Moderate.
 - "Stage 3" water supply conditions shall also be known as Acute.
 - "Stage 4" water supply conditions shall also be known as Severe.
- "Water" means water supplied by the SCRD to an Owner or Occupier of a property and does not include collected rain, grey or recycled water. ("Owner" and "Occupier" have the same definitions as in the Community Charter).
- "Water Use Restrictions" means the restrictions on water use prescribed by Section 6 of this Plan.

4.0 Applicability

Based on local conditions, and as determined by the Engineer, any stage of Water Use Restrictions may apply to any SCRD water supply system, at any given time.

Water Use Restrictions as set out herein are applicable to all water users serviced by SCRD water, and to the use of any water supplies that have been mixed with any amount of SCRD water.

Water Use Restrictions do not apply to the use of private well water, rain water, grey water, any forms of recycled water, or other sources of water outside of the SCRD water supply system, although, other water supply systems may choose to adopt the SCRD Water Use Restrictions.

5.0 Determining Stage Restrictions

Stage 1 Water Use Restrictions are in effect from May 1 to September 30, unless otherwise directed by the General Manager. Decisions about which Stage to implement are based on a set of criteria and guidelines used to assess the risk of drought or water shortage and trigger the appropriate stage of Water Use Restrictions. In making a determination to increase the restrictions to Stages 2, 3 or 4 the Engineer will consider the following:

- i. Time of year and typical seasonal trends
- ii. Snow pack assessments and snowmelt forecasts
- iii. Storage volume of water sources and draw down rates

- iv. Stream flows and monitoring data
- v. Weather, recent conditions and forecasts
- vi. Water usage, recent consumption and trends
- vii. Water supply system performance

Any stage of Water Use Restrictions may be declared or delayed at any time or in any order, as the Engineer deems necessary. Extenuating circumstances include but are not limited to:

- Unusual weather conditions
- Supply disruption
- Excessive water consumption

6.0 Water Use Restrictions

6.1 STAGE 1 - Water Supply Conditions: "Normal"

The following water use restrictions for Stage 1 are in effect from May 1 to September 30 each year, unless otherwise determined by the General Manager.

During Stage 1 a person may:

- (a) use a sprinkler to water trees, shrubs, flowers or food producing plants and trees only during the following scheduled times:
 - i. on a property with an even numbered address on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday from 7:00 am to 9:00 am and from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm; and
 - ii. on a property with an odd numbered address on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 7:00 am to 9:00 am and from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm;
- (b) use a sprinkler to water lawns only during the following scheduled times:
 - i. on a property with an even numbered address on Thursday and Sunday from 7:00 am to 8:00 am; and
 - ii. on a property with an odd numbered address on Wednesday and Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.;
- (c) at any time water lawns, trees, shrubs, flowers, and food producing plants and trees by hose equipped with a spray-trigger nozzle, hand-held container, or drip-irrigation;

- (d) at any time use water to wash a vehicle or boat, but must use a hand-held hose equipped with a spray-trigger nozzle or pressure washer, or hand-held container; or commercial car wash;
- (e) at any time use water to wash sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, exterior windows, decks, fences or exterior building surfaces, but must use a hose equipped with a spray-trigger nozzle, a pressure washer, or hand-held container; and
- (f) at any time use water to fill a swimming pool, spa, garden pond, or decorative fountain.

During Stage 1, the following exceptions apply:

- (a) The Engineer may establish a separate schedule for sprinkling of public sports fields, public swimming pool maintenance and operation of public water parks to balance water demands. Public sector sprinkling of other landscaped areas and ornamental gardens follow the same schedule as set out in Section 6.1.
- (b) Commercial food producing farms paying a metered rate for water are exempt from Stage 1 restrictions.

Enforcement Approach

First time offenders will receive a warning. If an owner or occupier of a premise has received a warning at any time in the past, fines during Stage 1 will be \$200.

6.2 STAGE 2 - Water Supply Conditions: "Moderate"

During Stage 2, a person may:

- (a) use a sprinkler to water trees, shrubs and flowers only during the following scheduled times:
 - i. on a property with an even numbered address on Thursday and Sunday between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 am; and
 - ii. on a property with an odd numbered address on Wednesday and Saturday between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 am;
- (b) use hand watering or drip-irrigation to water trees, shrubs and flowers only during the following scheduled times: between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 am; and 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm any day of the week;
- (c) use a sprinkler to water food producing plants and trees only during the following scheduled times:

- i. on a property with an even numbered address on Thursday and Sunday from 7:00 am to 9:00 am and from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm; and
 - ii. on a property with an odd numbered address on Wednesday and Saturday from 7:00 am to 9:00 am and from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm;
- (d) at any time water food producing plants and trees by hand-held hose equipped with a spray-trigger nozzle, hand-held container, or drip-irrigation;
- (e) not water lawns, including newly seeded or sodded lawns;
- (f) at any time use water to wash a vehicle or boat, but must use a hand-held hose equipped with a spray-trigger nozzle or pressure washer, or a hand-held container, or commercial car wash;
- (g) not use water to wash sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, exterior windows, decks, fences or exterior building surfaces, except as necessary for applying a product such as paint, preservative and stucco, preparing a surface prior to paving or repointing bricks, or if required for health and safety reasons; and
- (h) at any time use water to fill a swimming pool, spa, garden pond, or decorative fountain.

During Stage 2, the following exceptions apply:

- (a) The Engineer may establish a separate schedule for sprinkling of public sports fields, public swimming pool maintenance and operation of public water parks to balance water demands. Public sector sprinkling of other landscaped areas and ornamental gardens follow the same schedule as set out in Section 6.2.
- (b) Commercial food producing farms paying a metered rate for water are exempt from Stage 2 restrictions.

Enforcement Approach

First time offenders will receive a warning. If an owner or occupier of a premise has received a warning at any time in the past, fines during Stage 2 will be \$300.

6.3 STAGE 3 - Water Supply Conditions: "Acute"

During Stage 3, a person may:

- (a) use a hose equipped with a spray-trigger nozzle, a hand-held container or drip-irrigation system to water:

- i. trees, shrubs, and flowers only between the hours of 7:00 am and 8:00 am or 7:00 pm and 8:00 pm any day of the week;
 - ii. food producing plants and trees between the hours of 7:00 am and 8:00 am and 7:00 pm and 8:00 pm any day of the week;
- (b) not water lawns, including newly seeded or sodded lawns;
- (c) not use a sprinkler to water trees, shrubs, flowers or food producing plants and trees, at any time;
- (d) not use water to wash sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, exterior windows, decks, fences or exterior building surfaces, unless required for health and safety reasons;
- (e) not use water to wash a vehicle, boat or equipment except to wash salt water from a vehicle, boat or equipment or if part of a non-cosmetic commercial process legally required by a third party; and
- (f) not use water to fill a swimming pool, spa, garden pond, or decorative fountain.

During Stage 3, the following exceptions apply:

- (a) The Engineer may establish a separate schedule for sprinkling of public sports fields, public swimming pool maintenance and operation of public water parks to balance water demands. Public sector sprinkling of other landscaped areas and ornamental gardens follow the same schedule as set out in Section 6.3.
- (b) Commercial food producing farms paying a metered rate for water are exempt from Stage 3 restrictions.
- (c) For certainty, essential water for livestock is exempt from Stage 3 restrictions.

Enforcement Approach

Fines during Stage 3 will be \$400.

6.4 STAGE 4 - Water Supply Conditions: "Severe"

During Stage 4, all outdoor water use is banned (including greenhouses), unless required by law to comply with health and safety regulations. Main line water pressures will also be reduced where possible.

For certainty, essential water for livestock is exempt from Stage 4 restrictions.

Where land is classified as farm land for taxation purposes under the *British Columbia Assessment Authority Act*, and is paying a metered rate for water, those farms will be exempt from Stage 4 water restrictions, for a two-week period, commencing from the first date of Stage 4 regulations.

Enforcement Approach

Fines during Stage 4 will be \$500.

7.0 Vacant Land

On vacant land where an address number does not exist, the water use restrictions for that property will match those of the abutting, same side of road, properties.

8.0 Communications

Water shortage can result in economic and social hardship. It is therefore critical to ensure timely communications with water users and relevant government agencies. Detailed communications plans exist for each Stage.

Water shortages can be actively reduced by effective communications and engagement with water users. The communications plans associated with each of the stages are critical tools to be utilized early, monitored and adjusted as needed.

9.0 Waste of water

Notwithstanding the Water Use Restrictions prescribed in Section 6, no person shall at any time waste water, caused by, but not limited to, the damage or deterioration of any sprinkler, micro-irrigation or drip-irrigation system, or plumbing fixture that results in water waste, or use more water than required to provide a service or complete a task, including over watering plants or lawns, and allowing a tap or hose to run unnecessarily. This is consistent with the Water Rates and Regulations Bylaw No. 422 and is enforceable.

10.0 Enforcement

The water use restrictions contained herein are enforced by of the Water Rates and Regulations Bylaw No. 422, the Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw No. 558 and the Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 638. Fines range from \$200 to \$500. Patrols will be stepped up as the Stages progress.

11.0 Schedules

Schedule "A": Water Conservation Regulations Chart
Schedule "B": Summary of Communication Plan

Schedule A: Water Conservation Regulations Chart



Water Conservation Regulations

scrd.ca/sprinkling-regulations

				STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	
				MAY 1 TO SEP. 30	BASED ON DEMAND AND ENVIRONMENT		
WATERING							
	Hand held container		Trees, flowers and shrubs	PERMITTED	4 hours/day max. 7am - 9am and 7pm - 9pm	1 hour/day max. 7am - 8am or 7pm - 8pm	
	Hose with spray-trigger nozzle						
	Drip-Irrigation		Food producing trees and plants	PERMITTED	PERMITTED	2 hours/day max. 7am - 8am and 7pm - 8pm	
	Sprinkler Soaker hose Micro-spray		Lawns	Two days per week 7am - 8am Even numbered address: Thu/Sun Odd numbered address: Wed/Sat <i>(Hand watering is permitted at any time)</i>	NOT PERMITTED	NOT PERMITTED	
				Trees, flowers and shrubs	Three days per week 7am - 9am and 7pm - 9pm Even numbered address: Tue/Thu/Sun Odd numbered address: Mon/Wed/Sat	Two days per week 7am - 9am Even numbered address: Thu/Sun Odd numbered address: Wed/Sat	NOT PERMITTED
					Food producing trees and plants	Three days per week 7am - 9am and 7pm - 9pm Even numbered address: Tue/Thu/Sun Odd numbered address: Mon/Wed/Sat	Two days per week 7am - 9am and 7pm - 9pm Even numbered address: Thu/Sun Odd numbered address: Wed/Sat
WASHING							
	Hand held container		Sidewalks, driveways, windows, fences and exterior building surfaces	PERMITTED	NOT PERMITTED except for preparing surfaces for painting or paving and for health and safety regulations.	NOT PERMITTED except for health and safety regulations.	
	Hose with spray-trigger nozzle						
			Vehicles and boats	PERMITTED	PERMITTED	PERMITTED only to wash off sea water.	
FILLING							
			Swimming pools and hot tubs	PERMITTED	PERMITTED	NOT PERMITTED	
			Garden ponds and fountains	PERMITTED	PERMITTED	NOT PERMITTED	
STAGE 4				BAN ON ALL OUTDOOR WATER USE			
FINES				STAGE 1 \$200	STAGE 2 \$300	STAGE 3 \$400	STAGE 4 \$500

Questions or report a violation: 604-885-6806 | infrastructure@scrd.ca

Schedule B - Communications Summary

Stage 1 (Blue)

Water supply conditions are “Normal” and emphasis is on drought preparedness. Stage 1 is in effect from May 1 to September 30, unless otherwise declared by the General Manager.

Water Conservation Goal: *Prevent water shortage.*

Messages:

- Use water wisely.
- How we use water now will determine how much we have for the remainder of the summer.

Stage 2 (Yellow)

Water supply conditions are “Moderate” and emphasis is on preventing a water shortage. Stage 2 is in effect at the time it is declared by the General Manager.

Water Conservation Goal: *Prevent water shortage.*

Messages:

- Diligent water use now ensures adequate supplies later.
- Please use only what you need.
- Aim to reduce water use by an extra 20%

Stage 3 (Orange)

Water supply conditions are “Acute” and emphasis is on preserving existing supplies. Stage 3 is in effect at the time it is declared by the General Manager.

Water Conservation Goal: *Preserve existing water supplies.*

Messages:

- No cosmetic uses of water.
- Aim to reduce water use by further 20 - 40%.
- Help spread the word.

Stage 4 (Red)

Water supply conditions are “Severe” and emphasis is on preparing for emergency water supplies. Stage 4 is in effect at the time it is declared by the General Manager.

Water Conservation Goal: *Prepare for emergency supplies.*

Messages:

- Ban on all outdoor water use.
- Aim to reduce water use as much as possible indoors and outdoors.
- Help spread the word.