

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Drought conditions move Cowichan region to Stage 3 water restrictions

DUNCAN, BC – With the majority of eastern Vancouver Island now at drought Level 4, all water systems in the Cowichan region will be subject to Stage 3 water restrictions beginning Friday, July 16 at 12 a.m.

In what has become the new normal for summer in the Cowichan Valley, low spring rainfall and extreme temperatures are having adverse impacts on watersheds and stringent water conservation efforts are required from water purveyors and residents. The Stage 3 restrictions apply to water systems serviced by the Cowichan Valley Regional District, local municipalities, Cowichan Tribes, Stz'uminus First Nation, Cowichan Bay Improvement District and Mill Bay Waterworks District.

“We all have a role to play in managing our water supply to help our economy and our ecosystem,” said Aaron Stone, Chair of the Cowichan Valley Regional District. “With no rain on the horizon, it’s incredibly important for everyone to do what they can to limit their water use and help bridge this dangerously dry period. Annual water conservation also helps ensure we are prepared for the possibility of longer-term drought conditions as a result of climate change. Minimizing draw down for our reservoirs and aquifers gives the natural systems we all rely on the best opportunity to recharge.”

Under Stage 3 restrictions, the use of sprinklers is not permitted, nor is the washing of vehicles and homes, or the filling of pools and hot tubs. Hand watering of trees, shrubs and gardens may be done for a maximum of two hours per day, between the hours of 7-9 a.m. or 7-9 p.m. The use of micro or drip-irrigation systems are permitted anytime for a maximum of four hours per day.

The CVRD and its partners will continue to monitor drought and fire risk conditions and will adjust the watering restrictions accordingly. Most of the CVRD is at the extreme or high fire danger level. Backyard burning and campfires are still banned throughout the Cowichan Region.

For more information on water restrictions and drought conditions please visit <http://cverdnewnormalcowichan.ca/water-use-restrictions>.

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