

**News Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Cowichan Region Moves to Stage 2 Water Restrictions for all Water Systems**

**DUNCAN, BC** – With the Province of British Columbia moving eastern Vancouver Island to Drought Level 3, water systems in the Cowichan region have moved to Stage 2 water restrictions effective immediately.

In 2021 local governments and water purveyors across the Cowichan region collaborated to add an additional stage of water restrictions to deal with the extreme drought conditions experienced in August 2021. The recent Stage 4 water restrictions prohibited all outdoor water sprinklers and curtailed commercial operations such as vehicle washing, pressure washing & window washing.

“We would like to thank residents for their efforts to conserve water during the past few months while our region was at higher water restriction stages and drought levels,” said Todd Etherington, Operations Manager for the Water Management Division of the Cowichan Valley Regional District. “In response to the Province of BC moving eastern Vancouver Island to Drought Level 3, the CVRD has lowered the water use restrictions to Stage 2.”

Stage 2 allows two-hour daily maximums for conventional irrigation and sprinkler systems. 4 hours a day for hand-watering and micro-drip irrigation of vegetable gardens and fruit trees, and one-hour daily limits for ornamental trees, shrubs and flower gardens.

These changes to water restrictions apply to all CVRD water systems. Residents of other improvement districts and private water systems in the region are encouraged to follow regional water restrictions, but should contact their local system operators for information on any specific regulations which may apply to their system.

Visit the [New Normal Cowichan](#) website to learn more about the updated stages of water use restrictions, including a [Water Restrictions Map](#) to find the current stage of restrictions on each water system in the region.

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