

Administration Department

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News Release

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Summerland Encourages Water Conservation

Although Summerland's reservoirs are not in distress at this time, extreme hot, dry weather conditions, with no relief in the near future, have forced the Province to declare the Okanagan Valley as Drought Level 4 which is the highest possible rating. The District is taking proactive measures to ensure the water supply is not depleted. These initiatives encourage residents to reduce their use and include moving to Stage 2 watering restrictions, an extensive conservation awareness campaign, and meetings with agricultural users to promote best watering practices.

Residents are asked to think about conserving water in everyday routines such as taking shorter showers, turning the water off while brushing teeth or washing vegetables, and putting a jug of water in the fridge instead of running water until it is cold. Small changes can make big differences when everyone participates.

"We want residents and businesses to understand the seriousness of the water situation in the Okanagan," says Mayor Peter Waterman. "Everyone needs to work together to do their part and make a conscious effort to voluntarily reduce their water consumption."

The bylaw department will increase enforcement of water use guidelines. The District will contact agricultural users who are using unusually large amounts of water for irrigation. The municipality will reduce watering on all municipal properties and have postponed annual hydrant flushing which usually takes place in August.

Stage 2 allows residents to water two days per week before 9am or after 6pm on designated days. Odd numbered addresses may water on Saturday and Tuesday and even numbered addresses may water Sunday and Thursday. Micro-irrigation, drip irrigation or a hose with a shut-off nozzle to water shrubs and gardens can be used on any day at any time.

Taking these steps and conserving water now will benefit our natural ecosystems and may help to avoid further restrictions in the future.

The District will be sending out educational material to residents to help with awareness. For more tips, please visit our website at www.summerland.ca.