



## Media Release

For Immediate Release

DATE: June 18, 2026

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### Freshet ends for Summerland

SUMMERLAND – Thirsk Dam Reservoir has stopped spilling and the Summerland Water Utility has moved from freshet operations into storage. As a result, annual allocation thresholds for irrigation water use are now in effect.

Summerland Council had previously decided that irrigation water consumed before the dam stopped spilling would not count toward annual allotments.

Drought Level 3 (very dry conditions) remains in effect with a 20% reduced water depth allotment as follows:

- agricultural, cemetery, park, playfield and golf course properties - 640 mm
- greenhouses - 1,381 mm

The District of Summerland will continue to work with the agricultural community, Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen (RDOS), Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) and the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) while monitoring watershed conditions, Trout Creek and Eneas Creek flows, reservoir storage levels and overall system performance. At this time indicators show that this irrigation season is expected to perform similarly to 2025; however, if conditions worsen, higher drought levels may be possible.

The District would like to remind irrigation users to monitor their water use, and they should communicate any changes to orchard lessees or tenants. All water users are encouraged to register for Voyent Alert! notifications (<https://voyent-alert.us/community/>).

Community participation to help promote responsible water use is important. Residents who observe what they believe to be irresponsible water use are encouraged to submit a report through the bylaw complaint form available on the District's website.

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