

REGIONAL  
DISTRICT  
OF NANAIMO

August 5, 2015

File: 5500-22-26

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Continued Drought Conditions – RDN Water Service Areas**

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On July 9<sup>th</sup> Residents within the Regional District of Nanaimo water service areas were asked to significantly reduce outdoor water use under Water Conservation Level 4, the highest conservation level the RDN has in its water service areas.

The increased restrictions were put in place to address higher than normal consumption experienced in May and June and in response to the continued drought conditions we see on Vancouver Island.

Residents responded positively across all eight water systems managed by the RDN with reductions averaging 32% with some areas as high as 50%. The reduction in water use is needed to protect our ground water and surface water resources during this summer and into the fall. Predictions indicate that we will see continued dry weather up to October with higher than normal temperatures through the winter and likely into next summer.

Reduced water use has allowed for some recovery in our ground water levels that were beginning to show signs of stress in some areas. Your continued cooperation in reducing outdoor use will be important to ensure our communities have a safe reliable supply leading up to this fall and, thinking ahead, into next year and beyond.

Regional District of Nanaimo staff plan to bring forward recommendations this fall for a process to review the regulations and rates bylaws that govern the eight water service areas. These recommendations will reflect issues related to the current drought but will also be impacted by long term implications on our water systems brought on by climate change. As part of that review process community input will be sought on how best to move forward with these changes.

Further information on the impacts of the drought on regional water sources will be provided in the coming weeks so residents are aware of the impacts on the regions water resources.

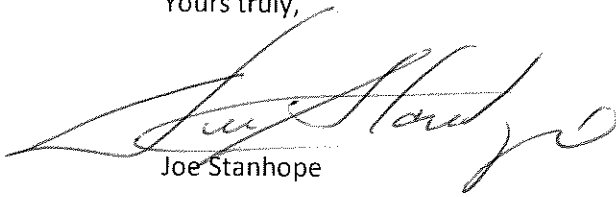
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I would like to thank everyone who has made a concerted effort to reduce, and continue to reduce, water use. Your positive response in such trying conditions is appreciated and is making a difference.

Yours truly,



Joe Stanhope