

**DATE:** March 4, 2021

**FILE:** 5600-01/CVWS

**TO:** Chair and Directors  
Comox Valley Water Committee

**FROM:** Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative Officer

Supported by Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative Officer

*R. Dyson*

**RE: Comox Valley Water System – Amendment to Bulk Water Rate Bylaw as per COVID-19 Response and Renewal Plan**

**Purpose**

To amend the bulk water rate bylaw to reflect the updated rates previously approved as part of the COVID-19 response and renewal plan for the Comox Valley Water System (CVWS).

**Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:**

THAT the amendment to Bylaw No.190 being the “Comox Valley Water Supply System Bulk Water Rates Bylaw No.190, 2011” attached as Appendix A to the staff report dated March 4, 2021 be considered for first, second and third readings at the March 9, 2021 board meeting.

**Executive Summary**

The CVWS is funded through a bulk water rate, which is charged to users on a per cubic meter basis for the amount of water consumed. In May 2020, the Comox Valley Regional District Board adopted a COVID-19 renewal plan for the review of service levels and all necessary, critical and functional projects slated for the next five years. At the July 2020 Comox Valley Water Committee meeting the following recommended actions were approved:

- Reduce increases to the service revenue requirements over the next two years by reducing operational expenses, as detailed within the July 9, 2020 staff report and within the financial plan.
- Decreases to the bulk water rate for 2021 and 2022 to \$0.80 per cubic meter, and return to the previously scheduled increase to \$0.96 per cubic meter in 2023.

An amendment to the bulk water rate bylaw is needed to decrease the rate to \$0.80/m<sup>3</sup> for 2021 and 2022 and to increase the rate to \$0.96/m<sup>3</sup> for 2023, to match the bulk water rate schedule as detailed in Table No.1 below and reflected within the current financial plan. In addition the “other than local government” rate has also been adjusted to decrease and increase proportionally.

**Table No.1: Bulk Water Rates as per the 2021-2025 financial plan**

Year	Rate (\$/m <sup>3</sup> )	Other than Local Government Rate (\$/m <sup>3</sup> )
2021	0.80	3.77
2022	0.80	3.77
2023	0.96	4.52
2024	0.96	4.52
2025	0.96	4.52

Prepared by:

*Z. Berkey*

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Zoe Berkey, EIT  
Engineering Analyst

Concurrence:

*K. La Rose*

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Kris La Rose, P.Eng.  
Senior Manager of Water/  
Wastewater Services

Concurrence:

*M. Rutten*

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Marc Rutten, P.Eng.  
General Manager of  
Engineering Services

Attachments: Appendix A – “Bylaw No. 644 being “Comox Valley Water Supply System Bulk Water Rates Bylaw No. 190, 2011, Amendment No. 6””



**Schedule A**  
**Comox Valley Water Supply System Bulk Water Rates**

The following bulk water rates are effective as of the date shown

Member Municipality	For each cubic meter of water supplied		
	Effective April 1, 2021	Effective January 1, 2022	Effective January 1, 2023
Town of Comox	\$0.80	\$0.80	\$0.96
City of Courtenay	\$0.80	\$0.80	\$0.96

Water Service Area	For each cubic meter of water supplied		
	Effective April 1, 2021	Effective January 1, 2022	Effective January 1, 2023
Comox Valley	\$0.80	\$0.80	\$0.96
K'ómoks First Nation (by agreement)	\$0.80	\$0.80	\$0.96

User	For each cubic meter of water supplied		
	Effective April 1, 2021	Effective January 1, 2022	Effective January 1, 2023
Local government	\$0.80	\$0.80	\$0.96

User	For each cubic meter of water supplied		
	Effective April 1, 2021	Effective April 1, 2022	Effective January 1, 2023
Other than local government	\$3.77	\$3.77	\$4.52