

DATE: June 24, 2020

FILE: 3900-02

TO: Chair and Directors
Comox Valley Water Committee

FROM: Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

Supported by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

R. Dyson

RE: Water Restrictions Updates

Purpose

To introduce proposed updates to the Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw in response to the Stage 4 water restrictions implemented in 2019 during a major repair to a transmission water main.

Recommendations from the Chief Administrative Officer:

1. THAT Bylaw No. 120 being “Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw 2010” be amended to incorporate changes respecting water restrictions as outlined in the staff report dated June 24, 2020;

AND FURTHER THAT Bylaw No. 104 being “Comox Valley Regional District Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw No. 104, 2010” be amended to update the section references for the Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw within the fines schedule.

2. THAT the Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw Enforcement Policy, as provided in the staff report dated June 24, 2020, be adopted.

Executive Summary

- In January of 2019, a leak was discovered in the main water transmission pipeline under the east bank of the Puntledge River. With water supply being significantly constrained during the repair, Stage 4 water restrictions were implemented for the first time for the Comox Valley Water System (CVWS).
- The implementation of Stage 4 restrictions reduced water consumption substantially, to an average of about 15.5 million litres per day, which ensured that the system could maintain sufficient volume and pressure for essential community needs.
- Despite the widespread reduction in water consumption, several aspects of the Stage 4 restrictions caused significant confusion for the business community. As a result, the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) hired a consultant to engage with the commercial sector to better understand these issues and provide recommendations to improve the implementation of future Stage 4 restrictions.
- The proposed changes to the Water Conservation Bylaw largely reflect the recommendations from the consultant’s report, including greater clarity respecting the restrictions and improved readability for businesses and the general public.
- The proposed bylaw updates further describe the emergency nature of Stage 4 restrictions and reinforces that water is only available during this stage for the most critical purposes, which include human consumption, sanitation and safety.
- A policy respecting enforcement of the restrictions is also proposed to confirm the general approach to enforcement of the water restrictions, including how investigations are

prioritized. Given the severely restrictive nature of Stage 4, the policy prioritizes enforcement resources on non-residential customers that are determined through review of consumption data to be high volume water users.

- In addition to the bylaw improvements, staff have carefully reviewed the consultant’s recommendations respecting external communication efforts during Stage 4 water restrictions and incorporated such findings into the plans for potential future events.

Prepared by:

Concurrence:

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Government Partners and Stakeholder Distribution (Upon Agenda Publication)

Comox Valley Water Management Advisory Committee	✓
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Attachments:

Appendix A - Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw Redline Version

Appendix B - Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw Enforcement Policy

Background/Current Situation

In January of 2019, a leak was discovered in one of the Comox Valley Water System’s main transmission pipelines that link the water treatment facility and the local distribution systems. The leak was found in the pipeline directly under the Puntledge River and led to the largest, most complex emergency repair in the region’s history.

In order to ensure the system could maintain sufficient volume and pressure for essential community needs during the repair, Stage 4 water restrictions were implemented. Despite general compliance with restrictions, several aspects of the Stage 4 restrictions caused significant confusion for the business community. As a result, the CVRD contracted Global Affinity Communications to conduct outreach with the commercial sector to better understand these issues and identify ways to improve the implementation of future Stage 4 restrictions. The report, entitled [Business Engagement Survey and Recommendations for Bylaw Updates](#), was included with the project close-out staff report received by the Water Committee at the November 5, 2019 regular meeting.

The proposed amendments (attached as Appendix A) to the bylaw largely reflect the recommendations of the above-noted report. In short, the changes can be summarized as follows:

- clarify the requirements of Bylaw Compliance Officers to enter on any property to determine whether the requirements of the bylaw are being met;
- confirm that the water use restrictions apply to both indoor and outdoor water use;
- confirm that the water use restrictions for each stage do not apply to the use of rain water, gray water or any forms of recycled water;
- include language to allow for further restrictions if necessary reductions in water consumption are not met;
- include a list of prohibited commercial water use activities; and
- replace the 'legalese' clauses provided for the various water restrictions with a table format incorporating plain language where possible.

The report also suggested the inclusion of reduction targets for each stage to help communicate the desired outcomes. While there is merit in providing such targets, the collection of further data respecting consumption levels is required before such targets can be accurately set.

Stage 4 water restrictions present serious impacts to commercial enterprises and these have been carefully considered by staff. The proposed changes do not alter the existing restrictions which generally limit the use of potable water to only the most essential needs, such as drinking, food preparation, personal hygiene and for safety. Businesses that rely on the Comox Valley water supply, including those that provide services such as pressure washing, car washing or window washing, concrete production and numerous other services would be impacted.

A policy respecting bylaw enforcement of the restrictions (attached as Appendix B) is also proposed to confirm the general approach to enforcement of the water restrictions, including how bylaw enforcement investigations are prioritized. Given the severely restrictive nature of Stage 4, the policy prioritizes enforcement resources on non-residential customers that are determined to be high volume water users. This focus is in acknowledgement of the limited enforcement resources available and the general restrictions on commercial, non-essential water use.

Policy Analysis

The CVRD delivers the Comox Valley water supply system under Bylaw No. 1783 being “Water Local Service Establishment Bylaw, 1995”. The Comox Valley Water Committee governs the system, which supplies water to the City of Courtenay, Town of Comox, K’ómoks First Nation and a number of local service areas within the electoral areas. The water supply system is regulated by the Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw (No. 129), which currently includes a four-stage water restrictions structure.

The proposed Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw Enforcement Policy is a document that provides guidelines for a fair and consistent enforcement process. It also provides staff with guidance respecting the exercising of discretion respecting enforcement, and provides the public with clarity regarding enforcement decisions and processes.

Options

The following options are provided respecting this matter:

1. Approve the recommendations provided in this staff report as presented.
2. Refer the matter back to staff for additional updates or analysis.
3. Do not proceed with any changes to the water restrictions as currently provided.

Financial Factors

The proposed changes to the Water Conservation Bylaw and the introduction of an enforcement policy present no significant financial implications. It is worth noting that Stage 4 exemptions for the watering of local government sports and playing fields is proposed to continue. This reflects the considerable public investment in these fields and the estimated costs of repair if watering was discontinued for a period of time.

Legal Factors

Section 335(2) of the *Local Government Act* provides that the Board may, by bylaw, regulate and prohibit in relation to a regional district service. The Board’s authority to regulate and prohibit in relation to its water service provides the authority to impose water use restrictions under conditions specified in the Bylaw.

The imposition of water restrictions on commercial enterprises presents the potential for liability for the regional district. As such, staff have sought and received legal advice to reduce such risk and potential liability.

Regional Growth Strategy Implications

The Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw and its associated water restrictions support Objective 5-A: Promote water conservation and efficiency throughout the Comox Valley.

Intergovernmental Factors

This matter was reviewed by the intergovernmental advisory committee on July 2, 2020. Municipal staff expressed general support for the effort to improve the clarity and readability of the restrictions.

Interdepartmental Involvement

The Corporate Services Branch has collaborated closely with the Engineering Services Branch respecting this initiative.

Citizen/Public Relations

As no significant regulatory changes have been proposed, specific engagement with the public and business community respecting Stage 4 restrictions will not be conducted until such measures are implemented or planned.



Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw

The following is a consolidated copy of the Comox Valley water conservation bylaw and includes the following bylaws:

Bylaw No.	Bylaw Name	Adopted	Purpose
129	Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw 2010	May 25, 2010	To regulate water use in the Comox Valley water system
219	Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw 2010, Amendment No. 1	May 29, 2012	To change the effective date of stage 2 and its restrictions
430	Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw 2010, Amendment No. 3	May 31, 2016	To refine and improve regulatory language for all water restrictions and to provide for extreme drought weather conditions requiring a stage 4 water supply restriction program
463	Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw 2010, Amendment No. 4	July 25, 2017	To incorporate the Sandwick water service into this bylaw, following the Sandwick Waterworks District conversion and subsequent connection to the Comox Valley water supply system
479	Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw 2010, Amendment No. 5	September 19, 2017	To implement effective dates and restrictions for stage 1 and 2 water supply restriction program
583	Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw 2010, Amendment No. 6	August 28, 2019	To implement thresholds based on flow in the Puntledge River for implementation of stages of restrictions.
<u>XXX</u>	<u>Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw 2010, Amendment No. 7</u>	<u>Month, day, year</u>	<u>To refine and improve the water use restriction stages and associated language</u>

This bylaw may not be complete due to pending updates or revisions and therefore is provided for reference purposes only. Titles and whereas clauses may be different than in original bylaws to make this consolidated version more clear and identify historical changes and conditions. Some sub-section references have been updated to reflect amending bylaw language. THIS BYLAW SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR ANY LEGAL PURPOSES. Please contact the corporate legislative officer at the Comox Valley Regional District to view the complete bylaw when required.

COMOX VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT**BYLAW NO. 129****A bylaw to regulate water use in the Comox Valley water system**

WHEREAS the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) provides a service of water supply pursuant to Bylaw No. 1783 being “Water Local Service Establishment Bylaw, 1995” within the following participating municipalities and electoral areas:

- The Corporation of the City of Courtenay;
- The Town of Comox;
- Baynes Sound (Electoral Area ‘A’);
- Lazo North (Electoral Area ‘B’); and
- Puntledge – Black Creek (Electoral Area ‘C’);

AND WHEREAS under section 796.2 of the *Local Government Act* a regional district may regulate in relation to a service;

AND WHEREAS under section 796.2 of the *Local Government Act* a regional government has authority to regulate water use even though a participating municipality is responsible for water distribution within that municipality;

NOW THEREFORE the board of the Comox Valley Regional District in open meeting assembled enacts as follows:

Definitions

1. In this bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions shall apply:

All-weather playing field means a publicly accessible planted sports field;

Appliance means a device or mechanism, other than that owned and operated by the municipality or regional district, in or through which water is piped or used for a domestic or commercial purpose;

Board means the board of the Comox Valley Regional District;

Boat means a vessel propelled on water by an engine, oars, or sails;

Boulevard means that portion of any highway other than the paved, improved or main traveled roadway, driveway or sidewalk and includes any landscaped median;

Bylaw compliance officer means a person appointed or contracted by the board or a council of the municipality to enforce this bylaw;

Comox Valley water committee means the committee established by Comox Valley Regional District Bylaw No. 1783 being “Water Local Service Establishment Bylaw, 1995”;

Electoral area service areas means those portions of Electoral Areas A, B, and C that are within the service areas created by:

- Bylaw No. 1453 being “Marsden/Camco Water Local Service Area Conversion and Establishment Bylaw, 1992”;
- Bylaw No. 1494 being “Greaves Crescent Water Local Service Area Establishment By-law, 1993”;
- Bylaw No. 1678 being “Arden Water Local Service Area Conversion and Establishment Bylaw, 1994”;

- Bylaw No. 1886 being “Comox Valley Water Local Service Establishment (Conversion) Bylaw No. 1886, 1996”;
- Bylaw No. 1999 being “England Road Water Local Service Area Establishment Bylaw No. 1999, 1998”; and
- Conversion under Order in Council 921 (approved and ordered December 7, 2016) of the Sandwich WaterWorks District to the Comox Valley Regional District Sandwich water service;

Exempted person means an owner or occupier of property identified in schedule ‘A’ as exempt from one or more of the regulations under this bylaw;

Farm means one or more parcels of land classified as farmland for assessment and taxation purposes;

Gauge 8 means the Water Survey of Canada Station 08HB006 on the Puntledge River;

General manager means any one of the officers of the CVRD, the senior manager of water/wastewater services or the manager of water services;

Local Government means the City of Courtenay, Town of Comox and the Comox Valley Regional District.

Micro-irrigation or drip-irrigation system means a system using irrigation components which consume less than 91 litres (20 gallons) per hour and operate at less than 172 kilopascal (25 pounds per square inch) to deliver water to the root zone of the plant material being irrigated, and includes spray emitter systems (micro-sprays), point source emitters, and linear tape systems as defined in the BC Trickle Irrigation Manual prepared and published by the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Resource Management Branch (issue 1999), but does not include weeper or soaker hoses;

Municipality means the Corporation of the City of Courtenay (Courtenay) and the Town of Comox (Comox);

Notice means a notice given under section 6 of this bylaw;

Nursery means a business in which flowers, plants, trees, or shrubs are grown or displayed for sale;

Operational officers means a group of persons comprised of one (1) of each of the following:

- (a) the chief administrative officer, general manager of engineering services, or senior manager of water/wastewater services of the CVRD;
- (b) the chief administrative officer or a senior operational staff member of the Corporation of the City of Courtenay; and
- (c) the chief administrative officer or a senior operational staff member of the Town of Comox;

Occupier has the same meaning as in the *Community Charter*;

Over-watering means to water in a manner that saturates the lawn, boulevard, or landscaped area being watered and results in water spreading onto areas beyond them;

Owner has the same meaning as in the *Community Charter*;

Permit means a permit issued under section 9(1) of this bylaw;

CVRD means the Comox Valley Regional District;

Restricted hours means those time periods during which watering is permitted in schedule 'A' of this bylaw;

Sprinkler means a hose connected or other sprinkler system but excludes a micro-irrigation or drip-irrigation system;

Stage means stages 1, 2, and 3, or 4 of the water use restrictions prescribed in schedule 'A' of this bylaw;

Vehicle means a device in, on, or by which a person or thing is or may be transported or drawn on a highway;

Water means water supplied by the CVRD directly or indirectly to an owner or occupier or the act of using or applying such water;

Water use restrictions means the restrictions prescribed in schedule 'A' of this bylaw; and

Watering days means those days during which watering is permitted in schedule 'A' of this bylaw.

Application

2. The restrictions and regulations in this bylaw are applicable in each municipality and the electoral area service areas.

Prohibitions

3. (1) The prohibitions in subsections (2), (3) and (4) are in force at all times of the year.
- (2) No person shall damage or allow the deterioration of any appliance so as to result in an increase in water use.
- (3) No person shall waste water by using more water than is required to provide a service, produce a product, or complete a task, including but not limited to allowing a tap or hose to run water unnecessarily and over-watering plants or lawns.
- (4) No person shall apply water intended for irrigation to an impervious surface such as a street, parking lot, sidewalk or driveway.
- (5) No person, being an owner or occupier of property in the municipality or in an electoral area service area, shall use water or cause water to be used contrary to the restrictions in effect at the time pursuant to schedule 'A' of this bylaw.

Inspection

4. The general manager or a bylaw compliance officer has the authority to enter, at all reasonable times and in a reasonable manner and after taking reasonable steps to give notice, on any property that is subject to this bylaw to ascertain whether the requirements of this bylaw are being met or the regulations in this bylaw are being observed.

Effective Dates and Puntledge River Flow Thresholds for Implementation of Stages and Restrictions

5. (1) Stage 1 and the water use restrictions for Stage 1 prescribed in schedule 'A' are in effect May 1 of the year, except as provided under subsection (5).
- (2) Stage 2 and the water use restrictions for Stage 2 prescribed in schedule 'A' are in effect when the flow within the Puntledge River is reduced below 15.6 cubic meters per second as measured at Gauge 8, except as provided under subsection (5).

- (3) Stage 3 and the water use restrictions for Stage 3 prescribed in schedule 'A' are in effect when the flow within the Puntledge River is reduced below 11.3 cubic meters per second as measured at Gauge 8, except as provided under subsection (5).
- (4) Stage 4 and the water use restrictions for Stage 4 prescribed in schedule 'A' are in effect when the flow within the Puntledge River is reduced below 5.7 cubic meters per second as measured at Gauge 8, except as provided under subsection (6).
- (5) The operational officers, by written determination and based on the determination factors specified in section 7, may
 - (a) Amend the effective period of time for stages 1, 2 or 3 water use restrictions, or
 - (b) Terminate or bring into effect water use restrictions up to and including stage 3 at any time of the year for any period of time.
- (6)
 - (i) The Comox Valley water committee, at a regular, special or emergency meeting may bring into effect stage 4 water use restrictions.
 - (ii) The operational officers, by written determination and based on the determination factors specified in section 7, may terminate stage 4 water restrictions.
- (7) In the event of system failure which limits the delivery of water at normal volumes, the chief administrative officer or general manager of the CVRD may implement water restrictions as necessary to maintain the water system without consultation with the participating municipalities.
- (8) The stage determined under section 7 and the water use restrictions prescribed under schedule 'A' for that stage take effect on the commencement date stated in the notice for that stage and remain in effect until that stage is terminated.
- (9) A stage will remain in effect until it is terminated under this bylaw or until the commencement of another stage.

Notice

6.
 - (1) An operational officer of the CVRD must give notice or cause notice to be given to persons within the municipality or electoral area service areas of the applicable stage determined under section 5 and its effective dates of commencement and termination.
 - (2) The notice under subsection (1) must be given at least once
 - (a) Before the commencement of a more restrictive stage
 - (3) The notice under this section must be published in a newspaper and broadcast from a radio station. The notice may also be broadcast from a television station or cable television channel serving the CVRD and posted on the CVRD web site.
 - (4) In the event of the commencement of a more restrictive stage due to system failure as described under section 5(7), notices will be given immediately to senior operational staff members of the municipalities and as required to other persons in consideration of the expected duration of the event.

Determination Factors

7. (1) In making a determination under section 5(5) or 5(6)(ii), the operational officers may consider:
 - (a) BC Hydro scheduled and emergency maintenance with respect to the operation of the penstock and powerhouse which would affect the capacity of the penstock supply source;
 - (b) Operational restrictions on system capacity with respect to the usage of the standby water pumping station on the Puntledge River;
 - (c) The need to reduce peak demands on the water system, and
 - (d) Operational factors which limits the ability to supply normal water capacity.
- (2) In making a determination under section 5(6)(i), the Comox Valley Water Committee may consider the factors referred to in section 7(1) and any other relevant information.

Water Use Restrictions

8. The water use restrictions for each stage are prescribed in schedule 'A' to this bylaw and must be obeyed during the period that the applicable stage is in effect under this bylaw.
9. The water use restrictions for each stage apply to both indoor and outdoor water use.
10. The water use restrictions for each stage do not apply to the use of rain water, gray water, any forms of recycled water, or other sources of water outside the Comox Valley Regional District Water Supply System.

Permits, Exemptions, and Special Cases

- ~~119.~~ (1) The CVRD and the municipalities (as agents of the CVRD) may issue permits for the installation of a new lawn in the special cases and manner prescribed in schedule 'B'.
- (2) Exemptions and special cases to the regulations in this bylaw are prescribed in schedule 'A'.
- (3) Exempted persons and permit holders are exempted from section 3 to the extent permitted by schedule 'A' and the conditions of the permit where applicable.

Schedules

~~40.~~ 12. Schedules 'A' and 'B' of this bylaw form part of and are enforceable in the same manner as this bylaw.

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Penalty

- ~~134.~~ (1) Any person who contravenes a provision in this bylaw, or who suffers or permits any act or thing to be done in contravention of this bylaw, or who refuses, omits, or neglects to fulfill, observe, carry out or perform any duty or obligation imposed in this bylaw is guilty of an offence and:
 - (a) on summary conviction is liable to a fine of not less than \$100 and subject to the maximum fines under the *Local Government Act* and the *Offence Act*; or
 - (b) on conviction of a ticket offence under the ticketing bylaw, is liable for the fine imposed under that bylaw.
- (2) In the case of a continuing violation, each day that a violation continues to occur shall constitute a separate offence.

Liability

~~12.~~ 14. Nothing in this bylaw shall be interpreted as imposing any duty on the local governments to provide a continuous supply of water to any person or premises and it is a condition of supply of water that the local governments are not liable for any injury, damage, or loss, including economic loss, to any person or property:

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- (a) Arising or occurring from the use of water from the system;
- (b) Resulting from a failure of water supply to any consumer; or
- (c) Resulting from any impurity, lack of pressure, increased supply pressure, or other condition affecting water supplied by the system.

Severability

~~13.~~ 15. If any provision of this bylaw is held to be invalid by a court, the provision may be severed from this bylaw and such invalidity does not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this bylaw.

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Repeal

~~164.~~ Bylaw No. 2867 being "Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw 2006" and all amendments thereto are hereby repealed.

Bylaw citation and effective date

~~175.~~ This Bylaw No. 129 may be cited for all purposes as "Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw 2010" and takes effect on the date adopted.

SCHEDULE ‘A’

OUTDOOR WATER USE RESTRICTION STAGES

STAGE 1 WATER USE RESTRICTIONS

Stage 1 is intended to raise public awareness of potential drought, prevent drinking water wastage and ensure all water users employ efficient and effective practices.

User	Water Use	Restriction
RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL	Watering lawns with a sprinkler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Even-numbered civic addresses may only water between the hours of 5:00 am and 8:00 am and 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Odd numbered-addresses may only water between the hours of 5:00 am and 8:00 am and 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.
	Watering of new grass plantings (sod or seed) with reasonable evidence of recent installation (sod within 21 days, seed within 45 days),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At any time if watering is done by a hand held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle. Under the authority of a permit, water with a sprinkler between the hours of 5:00 am and 8:00 am and 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm.
	Watering trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Even-numbered civic addresses may only water using a sprinkler between the hours of 5:00 am and 8:00 am and 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Odd numbered-addresses may only water using a sprinkler between the hours of 5:00 am and 8:00 am and 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Any day at any time if using micro-irrigation or drip-irrigation system, hand held container or a hand held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle. Any day and time and using any method during installation and for the following 24 hours.
	Wash sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, exterior windows, vehicles or exterior building surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On any day at any time if using a hand held container or hand held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle.
	Washing vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On any day at any time if using a hand held container or hand held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle at car dealerships or commercial car washes.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	Watering parks, ornamental lawns and grassed boulevards with a sprinkler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only water between the hours of 11:00 pm and 7:00 am on even numbered days for even-numbered civic addresses and odd numbered days for odd-numbered civic addresses.
	Water all weather playing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At any time using any method if failure to do so will

	fields	result in a permanent loss of plant material.
Exceptions to Stage 1 Water Use Restrictions		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owners or occupiers of property who, by reason of physical or mental incapacity, and where such incapacity has been documented by a medical practitioner, are unable to water their property within the restricted days and times, may water their property on any three days of the week for a maximum of six hours per day. • Nurseries, farms, turf farms, and tree farms. • local government water parks and pools. • Owners or operators of golf courses may water trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables grown on golf courses any day at any time if using micro-irrigation or drip-irrigation system, hand held container or a hand held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle or by any method during installation and for the following 24 hours. In addition, fairways, golf greens and tees may be watered on any day if failure to do so will result in permanent loss of plant material. 	

STAGE 1

1. ~~During Stage 1~~

- ~~(a) A person may only use a sprinkler to water a lawn growing on a property with:

 - ~~(i) an even numbered address, between the hours of 5:00 am and 8:00 am and 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. They may not use a sprinkler to water the lawn on any other day or time; and~~
 - ~~(ii) an odd numbered address, between the hours of 5:00 am and 8:00 am and 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. They may not use a sprinkler to water the lawn on any other day or time.~~~~
- ~~(b) Local governments may use a sprinkler to water parks, ornamental lawns and grassed boulevards between the hours of 11:00 pm and 7:00 am on even numbered days for even numbered addresses and odd numbered days for odd numbered addresses;~~
- ~~(c) a person may

 - ~~(i) water trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables on any day with a sprinkler during the prescribed hours for Stage 1 and on any day at any time if watering is done by hand held container or a hand held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle;~~
 - ~~(ii) water newly planted trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables by any method during installation and for the following 24 hours;~~
 - ~~(iii) use micro-irrigation or drip-irrigation systems to water trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables at any time on any day;~~
 - ~~(iv) under the authority of a permit, water new sod on installation and during the first 21 days after installation, and water newly seeded lawns until growth is established or for 49 days after installation, whichever is less, with a sprinkler but only during the prescribed Stage 1 lawn watering hours, and at any time if watering is done by a hand held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle;~~~~

- ~~(v) water all weather playing fields at any time if failure to do so will result in a permanent loss of plant material;~~
- ~~(vi) use water to wash sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, exterior windows, or exterior building surfaces with water using a hand held container or hand held hose equipped with an automatic shut off nozzle; and,~~
- ~~(vii) wash a vehicle with water using a hand held container or hand held hose equipped with an automatic shut off nozzle and at car dealerships or commercial car washes.~~

2. ~~As exceptions to the Stage 1 restrictions~~

- ~~(a) Owners or occupiers of property who, by reason of physical or mental incapacity, and where such incapacity has been documented by a medical practitioner, are unable to water their property within the restricted days and times, may water their property on any three days of the week for a maximum of six hours per day;~~
- ~~(b) nurseries, farms, turf farms, and tree farms are exempted from the restrictions;~~
- ~~(c) local government water parks and pools are exempt from the restrictions; and~~
- ~~(d) owners or operators of golf courses may water~~
 - ~~(i) trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables grown on golf courses in accordance with Stage 1 sections 1 (c) (i), (ii), and (iii) of this schedule; and~~
 - ~~(ii) fairways, golf greens and tees on any day if failure to do so will result in permanent loss of plant material.~~

SCHEDULE ‘A’ (continued)

STAGE 2 WATER USE RESTRICTIONS

Stage 2 restrictions provide further conservation measures for drinking water in response to low water supply conditions or in prolonged, moderate drought conditions. These restrictions are designed to conserve enough drinking water to avoid or delay moving to Stage 3 as long as possible.

User	Water Use	Restriction
RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL	Watering lawns with a sprinkler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Even-numbered civic addresses may only water between the hours of 6:00 am and 8:00 am and 8:00 pm and 10:00 pm on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Odd numbered-addresses may only water between the hours of 6:00 am and 8:00 am and 8:00 pm and 10:00 pm on Wednesdays and Sundays.
	Watering of new grass plantings (sod or seed) with reasonable evidence of recent installation (sod within 21 days, seed within 45 days),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At any time if watering is done by a hand held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle. Under the authority of a permit, water with a sprinkler between the hours of 6:00 am and 8:00 am and 8:00 pm and 10:00 pm.
	Watering trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Even-numbered civic addresses may only water using a sprinkler between the hours of 6:00 am and 8:00 am and 8:00 pm and 10:00 pm on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Odd numbered-addresses may only water using a sprinkler between the hours of 6:00 am and 8:00 am and 8:00 pm and 10:00 pm on Wednesdays and Sundays. Any day at any time if using micro-irrigation or drip-irrigation system, hand held container or a hand held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle. Any day and time and using any method during installation and for the following 24 hours.
	Wash sidewalks, driveways and parking lots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibited except as necessary for applying a product such as paint, preservative and stucco, preparing a surface prior to paving or repointing bricks, or if required by law to comply with health or safety regulations.
	Wash exterior windows and building surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On any day at any time if using a hand held container or hand held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle.
	Washing vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On any day at any time if using a hand held container or hand held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	Watering parks, ornamental lawns and grassed boulevards with a sprinkler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only water between the hours of 11:00 pm and 7:00 am on even numbered days for even-numbered civic addresses and odd numbered days for odd-numbered civic addresses.

Water all weather playing fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At any time using any method if failure to do so will result in a permanent loss of plant material.
Exceptions to Stage 2 Water Use Restrictions	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Owners or occupiers of property who, by reason of physical or mental incapacity, and where such incapacity has been documented by a medical practitioner, are unable to water their property within the restricted days and times, may water their property on any two days of the week for a maximum of four hours per day.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nurseries, farms, turf farms, and tree farms.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local government water parks and pools.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Owners and operators of commercial pressure washing companies may use water but only as part of their normal business operations.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Owners or operators of golf courses may water: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fairways at any time on not more than two days per week; trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables grown on golf courses in accordance with stage 2 date and time restrictions for residential and non-residential users; and golf greens and tees on any day if failure to do so will result in permanent loss of plant material.

STAGE 2

1. ~~During Stage 2~~

- ~~(a) A person may only use a sprinkler to water a lawn growing on a property with:

 - ~~(i) an even numbered address, on Tuesday and Saturday between the hours of 6:00 am to 8:00 am and 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm. They may not use a sprinkler to water the lawn on any other day or time; and~~
 - ~~(ii) an odd numbered address, on Wednesday and Sunday between the hours of 6:00 am to 8:00 am and 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm. They may not use a sprinkler to water the lawn on any other day or time.~~~~
- ~~(b) Local government may use a sprinkler to water parks, ornamental lawns and grassed boulevards between the hours of 11:00 pm and 7:00 am on even numbered days for even numbered addresses and odd numbered days for odd numbered addresses.~~
- ~~(c) No person shall use water to wash sidewalks, driveways and parking lots except as necessary for applying a product such as paint, preservative and stucco, preparing a surface prior to paving or repointing bricks, or if required by law to comply with health or safety regulations.~~
- ~~(d) A person may:

 - ~~(i) water trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables with a sprinkler during the prescribed hours and days for Stage 2 and on any day at any time if watering is done by hand held container or a hand held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle;~~
 - ~~(ii) water newly planted trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables by any method during installation and for the following 24 hours;~~~~

- ~~(iii) use micro irrigation or drip irrigation systems to water trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables at any time on any day;~~
 - ~~(iii) under the authority of a permit, water new sod on installation and during the first 21 days after installation, and water newly seeded lawns until growth is established or for 49 days after installation, whichever is less, with a sprinkler but only during the prescribed Stage 2 lawn watering hours, and at any time if watering is done by a hand held hose equipped with an automatic shut off nozzle;~~
 - ~~(iv) water all weather playing fields at any time if failure to do so will result in a permanent loss of plant material;~~
 - ~~(v) wash exterior windows and building surfaces with water using a hand held container or hand held hose equipped with an automatic shut off nozzle; and~~
 - ~~(vi) wash a vehicle with water using a hand held container or hand held hose equipped with an automatic shut off nozzle and at car dealerships and commercial car washes.~~
- ~~2. As exceptions to Stage 2 restrictions~~
- ~~(a) Owners or occupiers of property who, by reason of physical or mental incapacity, are unable to water their property within the restricted days and times, may water their property on two days per week for a maximum of four hours per day;~~
 - ~~(b) nurseries, farms, turf farms, and tree farms are exempted from the restrictions;~~
 - ~~(c) local government water parks and pools are exempt from the restrictions;~~
 - ~~(d) owners and operators of commercial pressure washing companies may use water but only as part of their normal business operations; and~~
 - ~~(e) owners or operators of golf courses may water:

 - ~~(i) fairways at any time on not more than two days per week;~~
 - ~~(ii) trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables grown on golf courses in accordance with stage 2 sections 1 (d) (i), (ii), and (iii) of this schedule; and~~
 - ~~(iii) golf greens and tees on any day if failure to do so will result in permanent loss of plant material.~~~~

SCHEDULE ‘A’ (continued)

STAGE 3 – WATER USE RESTRICTIONS NO LAWN WATERING

Stage 3 restrictions implement stricter water conservation measures to maintain water supply during significant drought conditions or other water shortage.

In addition to the following water restrictions, further measures may be implemented under this stage, if necessary, to maintain supplies during a period of critical water shortage.

User	Water Use	Restriction
RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL	Watering lawns with a sprinkler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibited
	Watering of new grass plantings (sod or seed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibited. All local government permits issued for lawn watering are invalidated.
	Watering trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any day between the hours of 6:00 am to 8:00 am and 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm if watering is done using micro-irrigation or drip-irrigation systems or by hand-held container or a hand held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle
	Watering newly planted trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At any time during the following 24 hours after installation using a hand held container or a hand held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle.
	Fill or add water to a swimming pool, hot tub, garden pond or operate a decorative fountain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibited except wading pools less than 200 centimeters in diameter may be filled with water up to a maximum depth of 30 centimeters.
	Wash sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, exterior windows, or exterior building surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibited except as necessary for applying a product such as paint, preservative and stucco, preparing a surface prior to paving or repointing bricks, or if required by law to comply with health or safety regulations.
	Washing vehicles and boats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibited except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to clean windows, lights, mirrors, licence plates, and engines for safety. at car dealerships and commercial car washes using less than 205 litres of water per vehicle wash or 50 percent recirculated water as long as the total amount of water, excluding recirculated water, does not exceed 205 litres per vehicle wash.
	Fill or add water to a swimming pool, hot tub, garden pond or operate a decorative fountain at any time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibited except wading pools less than 200 centimeters in diameter may be filled with water up to a maximum depth of 30 centimeters
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	Watering parks, ornamental lawns and grassed boulevards with a sprinkler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only water between the hours of 11:00 pm and 7:00 am on even numbered days for even-numbered addresses and odd numbered days for odd-numbered addresses.

Water all weather playing fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At any time using any method if failure to do so will result in a permanent loss of plant material.
Exceptions to Stage 3 Water Use Restrictions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Owners or occupiers of property who, by reason of physical or mental incapacity, and where such incapacity has been documented by a medical practitioner, are unable to water their property within the restricted days and times, may water their property on any two days of the week for a maximum of four hours per day. Nurseries, farms, turf farms, and tree farms. Local government water parks and pools. Owners or operators of golf courses may water: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fairways at any time on not more than one day per week; trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables grown on golf courses in accordance with Stage 3 date and time restrictions for non-residential users; and golf greens and tees on any day if failure to do so will result in permanent loss of plant material. 	

STAGE 3 — NO LAWN WATERING

1. ~~During Stage 3~~

~~(a) no person shall~~

- ~~(i) water a lawn or boulevard;~~
- ~~(ii) fill or add water to a swimming pool, hot tub, or garden pond;~~
- ~~(iii) fill or add water to or operate a decorative fountain at any time;~~
- ~~(iv) wash a vehicle or a boat with water; or~~

~~(b) a person may~~

- ~~(i) water trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables on any day between the hours of 6:00 am to 8:00 am and 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm if watering is done by hand held container or a hand held hose equipped with an automatic shut off nozzle;~~
- ~~(ii) water newly planted trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables by hand held container or a hand held hose equipped with an automatic shut off nozzle during installation and at any time during the following 24 hours after installation is completed;~~
- ~~(iii) use micro-irrigation or drip-irrigation systems to water trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables on any day between the hours of 6:00 am to 8:00 am and 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm;~~
- ~~(iv) water all-weather playing fields at any time, but only if failure to do so will result in a permanent loss of plant material; and~~
- ~~(v) use water to wash sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, exterior windows, or exterior building surfaces, but only if necessary for applying a product such as paint, preservative, and stucco, preparing a surface prior to paving or repointing bricks, or if required by law to comply with health or safety regulations.~~

2. ~~As exceptions to the Stage 3 restrictions~~

- ~~(a) nurseries, farms, turf farms, and tree farms are exempt from the restrictions;~~
- ~~(b) local government water parks and pools are exempt from the restrictions;~~

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- ~~(c) local government may use a sprinkler to water parks, ornamental lawns and grassed boulevards between the hours of 11:00 pm and 7:00 am on even numbered days for even numbered addresses and odd numbered days for odd numbered addresses;~~
 - ~~(d) owners or operators of golf courses may water:
 - ~~(i) fairways at any time on not more than one day per week;~~
 - ~~(ii) trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables grown on golf courses in accordance with stage 3 sections 1 (b) (i), (ii), and (iii) of this schedule; and~~
 - ~~(iii) golf greens and tees on any day if failure to do so will result in permanent loss of plant material.~~~~
 - ~~(e) wading pools less than 200 centimeters in diameter may be filled with water up to a maximum depth of 30 centimeters; and~~
 - ~~(f) vehicles and boats may be washed with water only at car dealerships and commercial car washes using less than 205 litres of water per vehicle wash or 50 percent recirculated water as long as the total amount of water, excluding recirculated water, does not exceed 205 litres per vehicle wash.~~

SCHEDULE 'A' (continued)

STAGE 4 ~~WATER USE RESTRICTIONS—EXTREME CONDITIONS~~

Stage 4 restrictions are implemented when no spare water is available. Severe water restrictions limit indoor and outdoor water uses as much as possible and are intended to maintain critical supply.

Stage 4 is activated based on the rare occurrence of a significant emergency, such as an earthquake, flood, wild land and interface fire, severe weather, or a prolonged power outage that causes significant impacts to the water system infrastructure.

In addition to the following water restrictions, further measures may be implemented under this stage, if necessary, to maintain community health.

User	Water Use	Restriction	
RESIDENTIAL AND/NON-RESIDENTIAL/LOCAL GOVERNMENT	All water uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Prohibited except for human and animal consumption, hygiene, safety, food and beverage preparation, use in firefighting, and by order of a regulatory authority having jurisdiction for health or safety. ◆ For clarity, the following water uses are specifically prohibited unless required for health, safety or sanitary purposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watering lawns, gardens, plants and trees - Washing motor vehicles, boats and other recreational vehicles - Washing outdoor surfaces, exterior windows, or exterior building surfaces - Filling or topping off of pools, hot tubs, ponds or fountains - Mixing concrete - Mechanical services - Spa services ◆ Manufacturing processes 	
	Exceptions to Stage 4 Water Use Restrictions		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigating local government all-weather playing fields. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local government water main and hydrant maintenance is permitted, but only for unscheduled safety or public health reasons. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water use is permitted for firefighting. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and beverage preparation establishments, including a brewery, cidery, distillery or meadery. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All commercial/business activities are exempt if health or safety regulations requires the use of treated potable water. 	

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STAGE 4—EXTREME CONDITIONS

1. ~~During Stage 4 all use of water for any purpose other than drinking, food preparation and personal hygiene is prohibited.~~

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2. ~~Without limiting the generality of section 1, prohibited uses of water during stage 4 include the following:~~
 - (a) ~~watering lawns, gardens, plants and trees in any manner or by any means, including watering by hand;~~
 - (b) ~~filling or topping off or operating residential or commercial pools, hot tubs or ponds or fountains;~~
 - (c) ~~operating local government outdoor water parks and pools;~~
 - (d) ~~washing vehicles, boats or outdoor surfaces;~~
 - (e) ~~irrigating golf courses and other public and/or school district property.~~
 3. ~~Where reasonably possible, swimming pools, hot tubs, fountains and ponds should be drained for health and safety purposes and such water used for irrigation.~~
 4. ~~No new lawn permit shall be issued during Stage 4, and no new lawn permit, whenever issued, shall be valid during Stage 4.~~
 5. ~~As exceptions to Stage 4 restrictions,~~
 - (a) ~~spot cleaning of vehicles and boats with a sponge and bucket for health and safety reasons (windows, lights, license plates, etc.) is permitted;~~
 - (b) ~~local government water main and hydrant maintenance is permitted, but only for unscheduled safety or public health reasons;~~
 - (c) ~~irrigating local government all-weather playing fields;~~
 - (d) ~~water use is permitted for farm and agricultural operations, but only for livestock drinking purposes and for no other purpose;~~
 - (e) ~~cleaning outdoor surfaces is only authorized when required by law to comply with health or safety regulations, or to comply with an order of a regulatory authority having jurisdiction, such as WorkSafeBC or a public health inspector; and~~
 - (f) ~~water use is permitted for firefighting.~~

SCHEDULE ‘B’

PERMITS

1. During Stage 1 and 2, a person/resident in an electoral area or a municipality who has installed a new lawn, either newly seeded or new sod, may apply to the Comox Valley Regional District or to the municipality respectively for a permit (a “new lawn permit”), which will allow the new lawn to be sprinkled with water outside of permitted days, but within the restricted hours. The permit shall be conspicuously displayed at the premises for which it was issued.
2. The Comox Valley Regional District or the municipality may issue a permit to an applicant pursuant to section 1 and 2 upon payment to the Comox Valley Regional District or the municipality of a fee in the amount of \$30.00.
3. New sod may be watered for 21 days after installation and newly seeded lawn may be watered until growth is established or for 49 days after installation, whichever is less, provided a permit pursuant to section 1 has been issued for the premises at which the new lawn has been installed.
4. Permits will not be issued or be valid during Stage 3 or 4 restrictions.
5. The permit is to take the form of the following example

Comox Valley Water System – Lawn Sprinkling Permit (pursuant to Comox Valley Regional District Bylaw No. 129)			
Name:		This permit is issued for NEW SOD or NEWLY SEEDED LAWN	
Street Address (location of permit):		Permit issue date	
		Installation date	
Permit conditions:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If this permit is issued for new sod, the permit is valid for 21 days after the date of installation. 2. If this permit is issued for newly seeded lawn, the permit is valid for 49 days after date of installation or until growth is established whichever is less. 3. During the term of the permit, the permit holder may sprinkle the new sod or newly seeded lawn between the hours of 5:00 am to 8:00 am and 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm during Stage 1 restrictions, between the hours of 6:00 am to 8:00 am and 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm during Stage 2 restrictions and at any time if watering is done by a hand held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle. 4. This permit is to be prominently displayed at the residence for which the permit is issued. 5. This permit is not valid during Stage 3 or 4 water restrictions. 			
Original to permit holder. Retain copy for local government records. Fee paid \$30.00.			



Subject: Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw Enforcement	
Branch: Engineering Services	
Department: Bylaw Enforcement and Water Services	Policy Reference: FILE CODE

Purpose:

To describe the Comox Valley Regional District's (CVRD) general approach to enforcement of Bylaw No. 129 being "Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw 2010", including how bylaw enforcement investigations are prioritized.

Scope:

This policy applies to the enforcement of Bylaw No. 129 being "Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw 2010" on behalf of the Comox Valley Water System.

Guiding Principles:

The Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw has been enacted by the CVRD, under the regulatory authority of the *Community Charter* and the *Local Government Act* in order to preserve the health and quality of life for citizens and ensure critical potable water services are maintained. The guiding principles include:

- Authorized by law
- Timely response to inquiries and complaints
- Confidentiality
- Impartial and procedurally fair
- Consistent
- In the public interest

Policy:

The primary goal in dealing with contraventions of Bylaw No. 129 being "Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw 2010" is to achieve voluntary compliance through communication and education. This enforcement philosophy seeks voluntary bylaw compliance with education being the first step. Ticketing is generally seen as a tool to be used only where cooperation and compliance cannot reasonably be achieved. However, the CVRD recognizes that enforcement based on education is not appropriate in all circumstances. More direct enforcement approaches, including immediate ticketing, may occur in situations such as:

- environmental or human health, safety or security is at risk;
- enforcement follows a widespread public education campaign;
- the Comox Valley Water Committee or Comox Valley Regional District Board has prioritized direct enforcement to address a specific issue or type of issue;
- where there has been a history of repeated offences regarding the same or similar violations;

- where the offender knows or reasonably ought to know his or her conduct contravenes the CVRD's water conservation bylaw.

The Comox Valley Regional District recognizes that with limited resources it is not possible to proactively monitor all areas of the community and pursue full compliance in every case.

Cross Jurisdictional Issues

The restrictions and regulations provided in Bylaw No. 129 are applicable to all Comox Valley Water System users which includes the Corporation of the City of Courtenay, the Town of Comox and Electoral Areas A (Baynes Sound – Denman/Hornby Islands), B (Lazo North) and C (Puntledge – Black Creek).

Bylaw compliance officers, as appointed or contracted by the Board or a Council of the municipality, have the authority to enter at all reasonable times on any property, that is subject to this bylaw, to ascertain whether the requirements of this bylaw are being met or the regulations in this bylaw are being observed.

General Procedures- Complaints

All bylaw enforcement complaints, with the exception of those that identify high priority contraventions, must be submitted in writing before they will be considered for investigation. All complaints must include complete contact information for the complainant (name, address and telephone number). It is also noted that bylaw compliance officers and/or contractors also undertake patrols of neighborhoods and businesses to ensure compliance with applicable regulations.

The Comox Valley Regional District will generally not respond to anonymous complaints. All complaints are documented and managed in accordance with the CVRD's Records Classification and Retention Schedule. Information regarding the complainant is kept confidential and is generally protected under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Situations in which complainant information or offender enforcement history may be disclosed include:

- if required by Court Order, warrant or other similar judicial or quasi-judicial process;
- if required as part of the disclosure process in the event of a prosecution or civil proceedings; and
- if the person to whom the personal information pertains consents to the disclosure.

Enforcement Priorities – Stage 1-3 Water Restrictions

During Water Restriction Stages 1 through 3, investigation and enforcement efforts are typically proactive and initiated by bylaw compliance officers and/or contractors, whose focus is on patrolling neighborhoods and businesses to provide education on water conservation and ensure compliance with applicable regulations. Violations of the bylaw and responses to complaints are generally prioritized as follows:

High Priority

Multiple medium priority violations or a bylaw violation likely to result in considerable water use and/or cause health and/or safety issues and/or negatively impact the community or the

environment.

Medium Priority

A bylaw violation with the potential to result in considerable water use and/or cause health and/or safety issues and/or negatively impact the community or the environment.

Low Priority

A bylaw violation that is unlikely to result in considerable water use and/or cause health or safety issues or negatively impact the community or the environment.

Enforcement Priorities – Stage 4 Water Restrictions

During Stage 4 Water Restrictions enforcement efforts are proactive to ensure an adequate supply of drinking water for human consumption, hygiene, use in firefighting and other essential needs. Violations will be investigated and enforced as soon as possible given the availability of staff and/or contractors and the urgent need for conservation of water. Prior warnings or education may not be appropriate or practical. Enforcement efforts are generally prioritized as follows:

High Priority

- Non-residential commercial users that are determined, by a review of water consumption data over the most recent 12 month period, to have used above 1,500 cubic metres annually.
- Violations likely to cause health and/or safety issues and/or negatively impact the community or the environment.

Medium Priority

- Non-residential commercial users that are determined, by review of water consumption data over the most recent 12 month period, to have used between 750 and 1,500 cubic metres annually.
- Violations with the potential to cause health and/or safety issues and/or negatively impact the community or the environment.

Low Priority

- Non-residential commercial users that are determined, by review of water consumption data over the most recent 12 month period, to have used below 750 cubic metres.
- Violations respecting residential water use.
- Violations unlikely to cause health and/or safety issues and/or negatively impact the community or the environment.

Approval History

Policy adopted:	DATE
Policy amended:	If necessary