



## Arrowsmith Water Service and Englishman River Water Service Monthly Update – February 2026

### Purpose

This document is intended to provide board members of the Arrowsmith Water Service and the Englishman River Water Service with an update on the status of the joint ventures. This document is also publicly accessible through the City of Parksville’s website.

### Background

Arrowsmith Water Service (AWS) was established as a joint venture between the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN), City of Parksville (Parksville), and the Town of Qualicum Beach to develop a regional water supply system. In 1996, AWS applied for a water licence to construct the Arrowsmith Dam. A conditional licence was granted in March 1997, authorizing the Dam to store 9,000,000 m<sup>3</sup> of water for community supply and conservation.

Each year, from June 1 to October 31 — defined as the ‘operating season’ — water is released from Arrowsmith Dam to augment baseflow in the Englishman River. A Water Survey of Canada (WSC) hydrometric flow gauge (08HB002) is installed in the river near the City of Parksville to monitor flow levels and ensure operational requirements are met. When river flow drops below 1.6 m<sup>3</sup>/s during the operating season, watering restrictions are enacted for users of the Englishman River Water Service (ERWS).

In 2011, the ERWS was established, as a joint venture between Parksville and the RDN, to enable year-round water withdrawal from the Englishman River. Parksville received a Permit to Operate the Englishman River Water Treatment Plant on November 8, 2019.



Arrowsmith Dam



Ultrafiltration Membranes at the water  
treatment plant



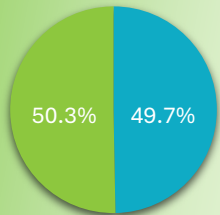
## February 2026

**ERWS WTP  
Production**  
111,431 m<sup>3</sup>

**RDN Share of ERWS**  
56,048 m<sup>3</sup>

**Parksville Share of  
ERWS**  
55,383 m<sup>3</sup>

## February ERWS Consumption Percentages

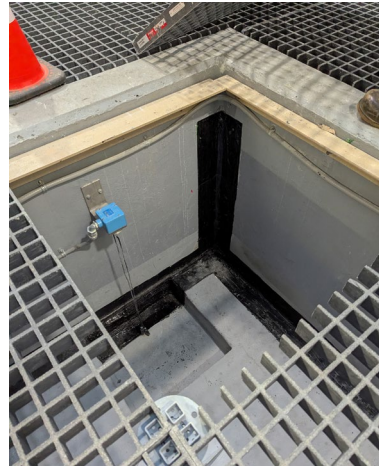
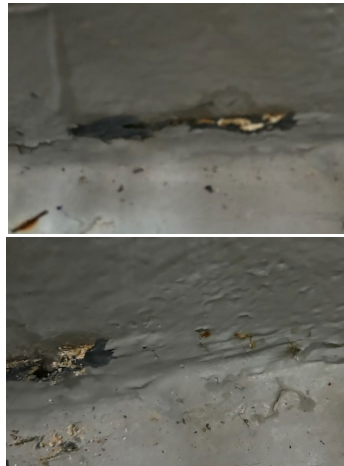


■ Parksville ■ RDN

## Englishman River Water Service

- February was an exceptionally busy month for operators due to the completion of the on-site raw water Pre-treatment Pilot Project and the Sealing of Spill Containment Cells Project within the chemical room, along with the transition back to routine operations.
- While the Sealing of Spill Containment Cells Project was being completed in the chemical room, certain chemicals were temporarily unavailable to improve worker safety. With the completion of the project, and the Chemical Tank Replacement Project, all permanent chemical storage tanks were refilled.
- The UVT analyzer experienced repeated drifting issues, which lead to a revised servicing and cleaning approach.
- The RDN's water consumption for February was higher than usual likely due to the piloting of their Aquifer Storage and Recovery system.
- The 5-year fish monitoring program draft report, being prepared by EDI, was received and reviewed.

Chemical room spill-containment: Before and after re-sealing

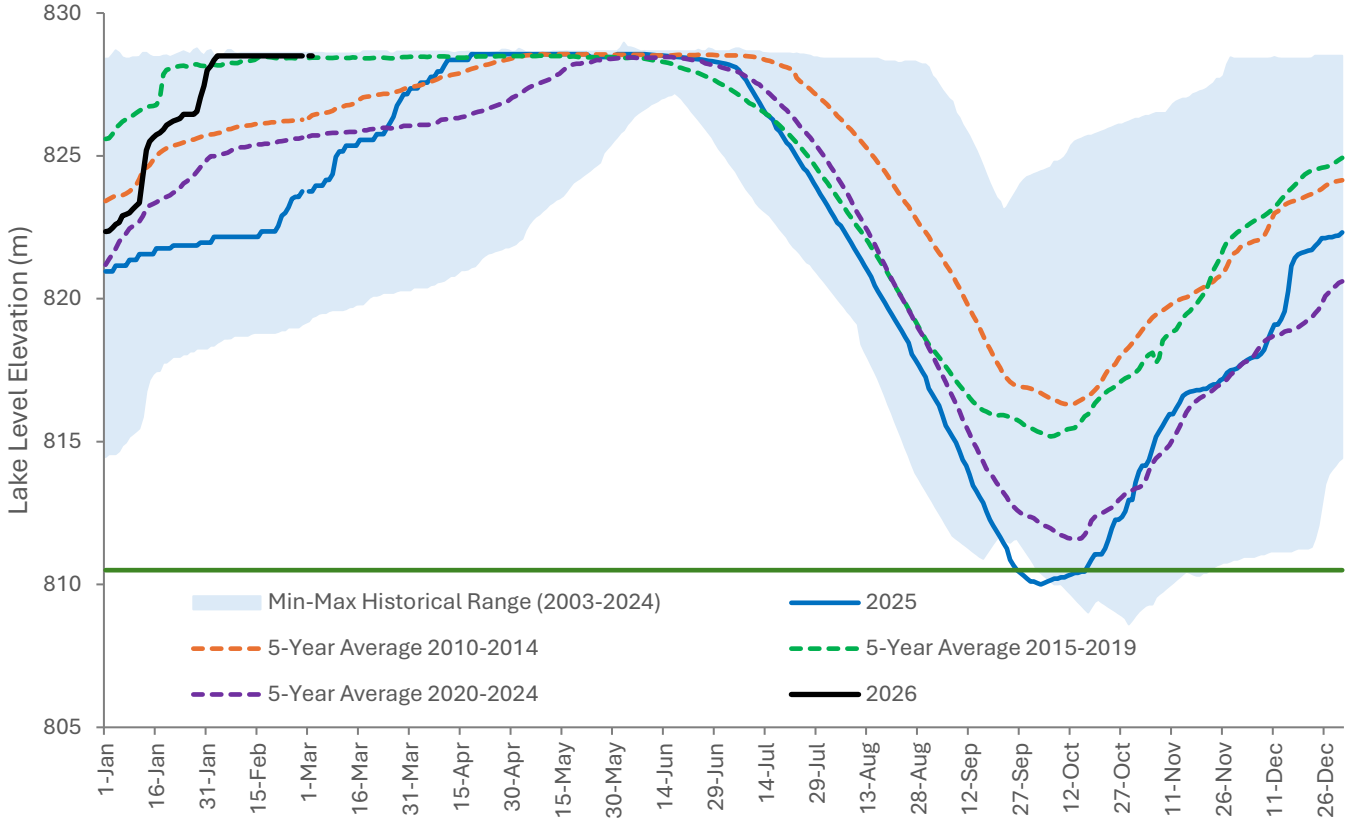


## Arrowsmith Water Service

- The Arrowsmith Reservoir reached capacity, and the Dam started spilling on February 3 (Figure 1).
- The Snow Water Equivalent measured near the dam in February reached the second-lowest level on record, comparable to 2024, which remains the lowest recorded level (Figure 2).



**Figure 1. Arrowsmith Dam Lake Level**



**Figure 2. Snow Water Equivalent – Station 3B26P**

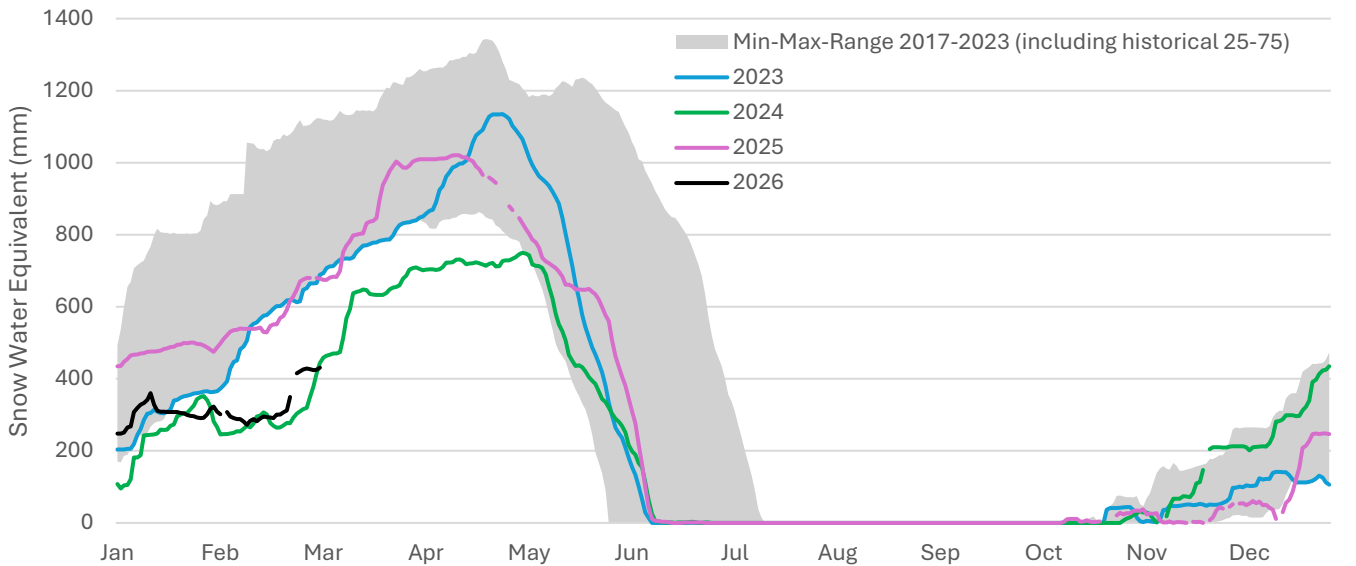
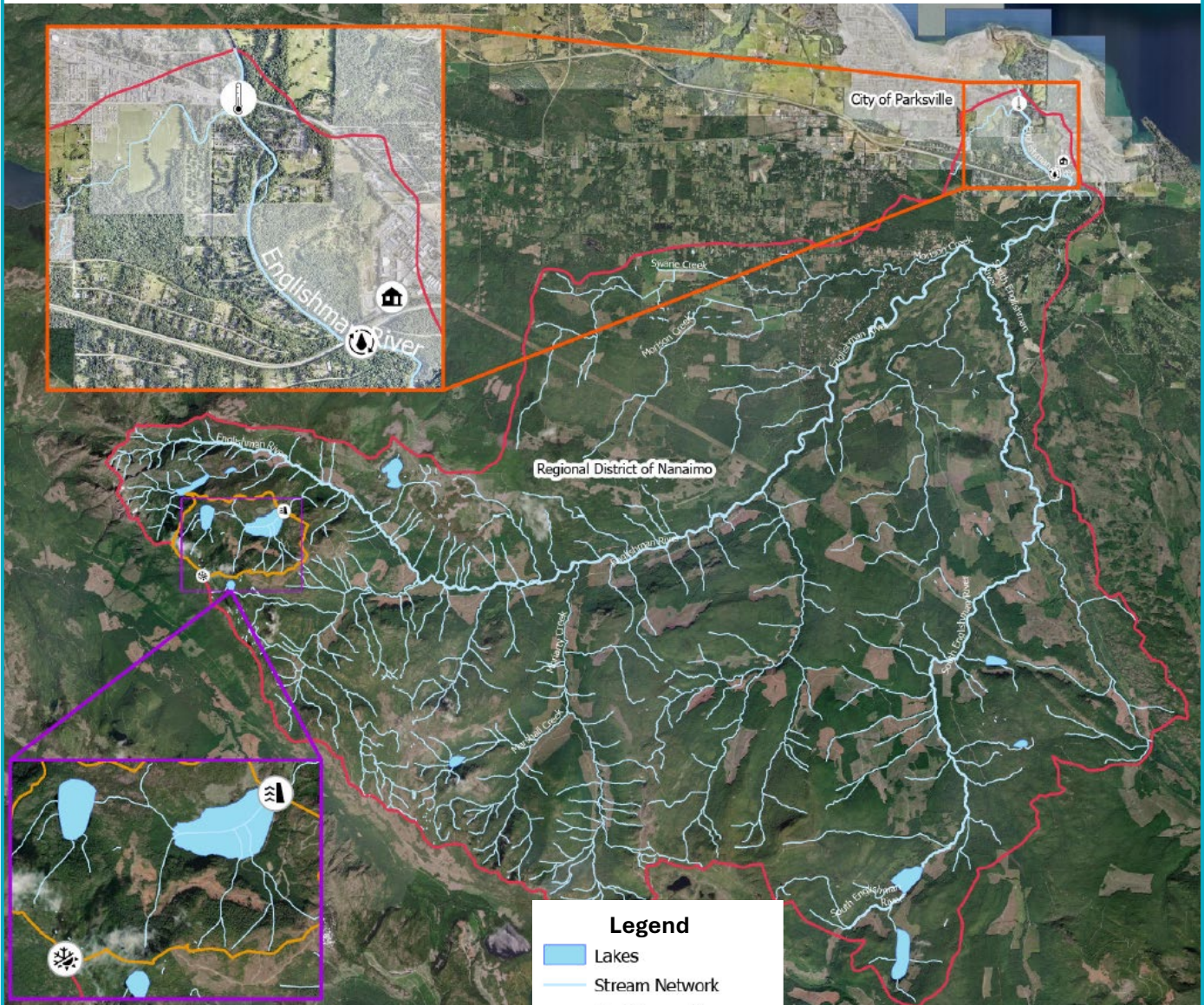


Figure 3. Englishman River Watershed



**Legend**

- Lakes
- Stream Network
- Englishman River Watershed Boundary
- Arrowsmith Dam Catchment Area
- Arrowsmith Dam
- Water Treatment Plant
- River Intake
- Hydrometric Gauge 08HB002
- SnowGauge

