



NEWS RELEASE

February 12, 2014

WATER MANAGERS COLLABORATE ON STRATEGY IN CASE OF REDUCED SUPPLY

With rainfall and snow pack levels significantly lower than usual, municipal and regional water managers throughout the Regional District of Nanaimo are working together to plan a coordinated approach toward conservation.

Managers from the City of Nanaimo, the District of Lantzville, the City of Parksville, the Town of Qualicum Beach, the Regional District of Nanaimo and EPCOR Water Services met on Feb. 6 to discuss the weather trend and its implications for summer water supply. The group will continue to meet regularly to update each other and to look at ways to promote conservation in their water service areas. Improvement Districts in the Region have also been invited to participate in the next meeting.

Without adequate rainfall, water reservoirs do not fill as quickly and aquifers recharge more slowly. This can limit surface and ground water supply in the drier summer months, when water demand is at its peak. While winter precipitation may yet reverse the dry pattern, water managers will begin conservation messaging earlier in 2014, so that residents will have the information they need if extra conservation measures are required. Although there are indications of variability in water supply across the region, promoting water conservation remains an important goal should residents need to change their consumption habits in the future.

Rural residents on private wells may have also noticed a delay in groundwater level recovery since last summer. Observation wells across the region show an approximate two-month delay in groundwater levels. More information on Ministry of Environment Observation Well data is available at www.dwwp.ca.

The RDN's four member municipalities and seven Electoral Areas participate in Team Watersmart, a program dedicated to education about water conservation, and in the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program, a region-wide service that gathers information to help protect drinking water and stream health. More information about these programs is available at www.dwwp.ca and www.teamwatersmart.ca.

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