



Arrowsmith Water Service and Englishman River Water Service Monthly Update – July 2026

Purpose

This document is intended to provide board members of the Arrowsmith Water Service (AWS) and the Englishman River Water Service (ERWS) 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 m³ 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. Following the Order set out by the Province of BC, when a flow release reduction from Arrowsmith Dam is allowed so that less than 1.6m³/s of flow is recorded at the flow gauge, water use conservation measures are enacted for users of the ERWS. The details of the Order can be found on the City of Parksville website within the AWS section.

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



Arrowsmith Water Service

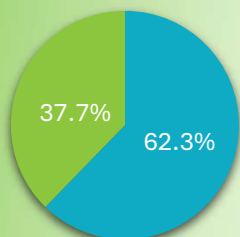
July 2026

**ERWS WTP
Production**
188,739 m³

RDN Share of ERWS
71,188 m³

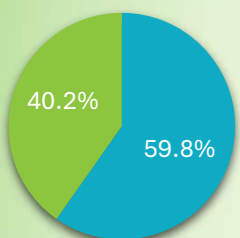
**Parksville Share of
ERWS**
117,551 m³

**July 2026 ERWS
Consumption
Percentages**



■ Parksville ■ RDN

**Year to Date ERWS
Consumption
Percentages**



■ Parksville ■ RDN

Operators carried out routine inspections and carefully managed reservoir releases to maintain a flow of 1.0 m³/s at hydrometric gauge 08HB002. This measured approach helps conserve water for later in the season, while ensuring sufficient river flows are maintained to support environmental flow needs.

The new survey monument, four prisms, and the prisms weather shield were installed at the dam. Three of the prisms were installed at the dam, and one on a rock surface. The first survey of the year was also completed.

Roadwork was completed on the last two kilometers of the road to the dam, from the gate to the dam. Additional work will be required.

Railing was installed around the hatch for the siphon line as a measure to enhance safety at the dam.

The design for the cable system up to the left abutment has started.



Locations of installed prisms and weather shield.



Englishman River Water Service

July was a busy month, with some of the distribution system operators receiving training to operate the water treatment plant, in order to have more operational coverage at the plant.

Routine operational activities were completed, including plant rounds, fish impingement checks, laboratory testing, analyzer QA/QC, data management, and continuous process monitoring. Operators also received confined space training.

EDI will be on site for the 5-year fish monitoring study in August. They will be completing the second and final ramping study for the project.



Figure 1. Arrowsmith Dam Reservoir Level

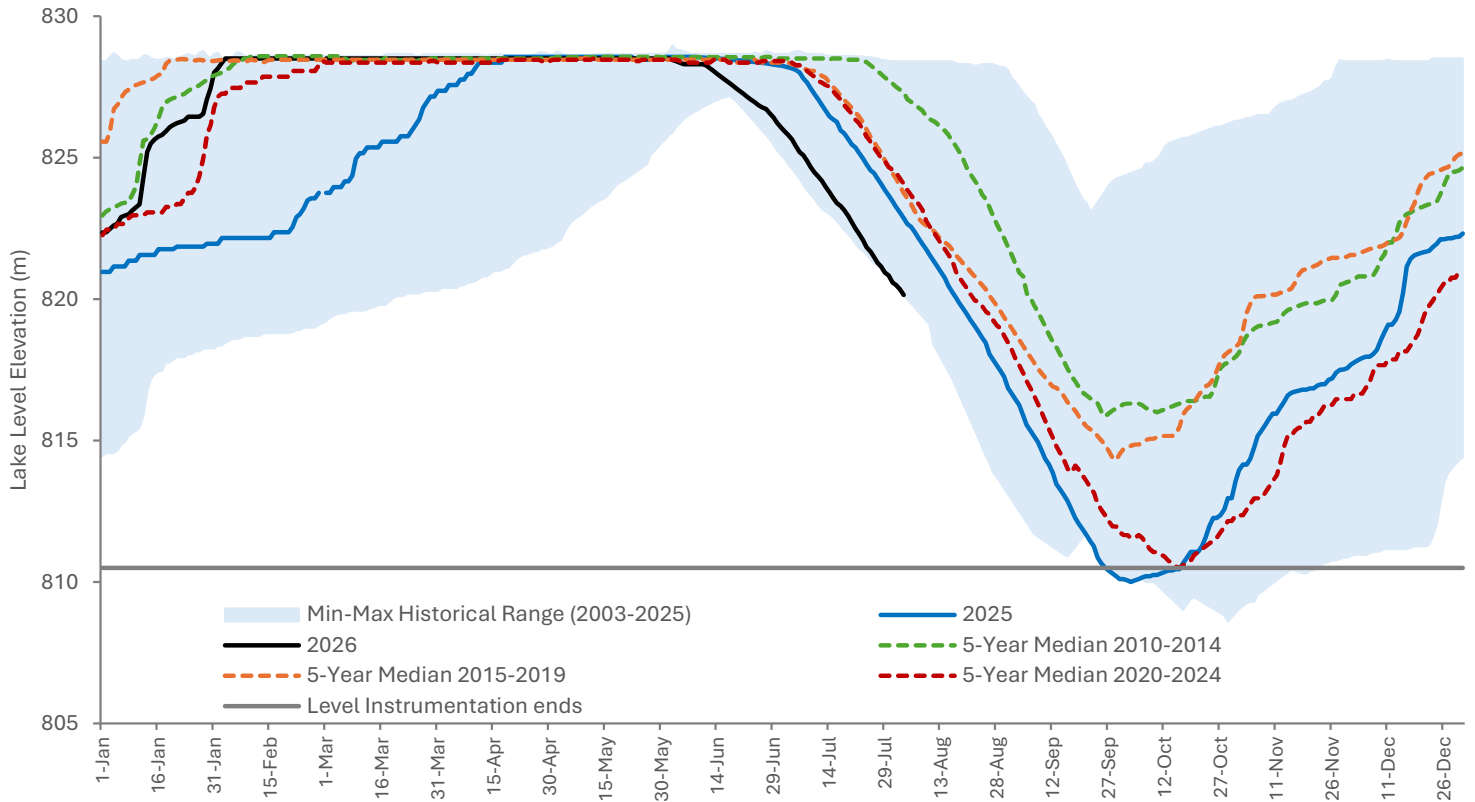


Figure 2. Water Survey of Canada Hydrometric Gauge 08HB002

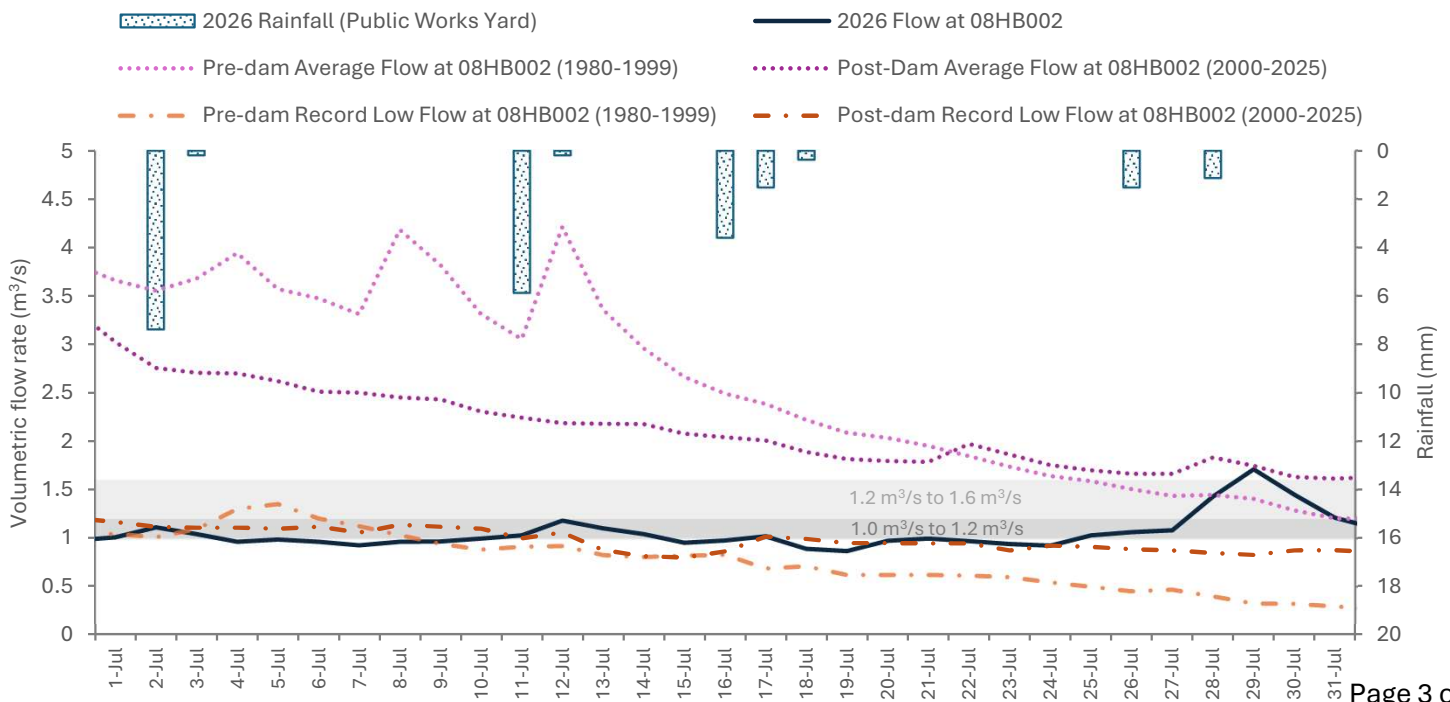




Figure 3. ERWS Water Consumption

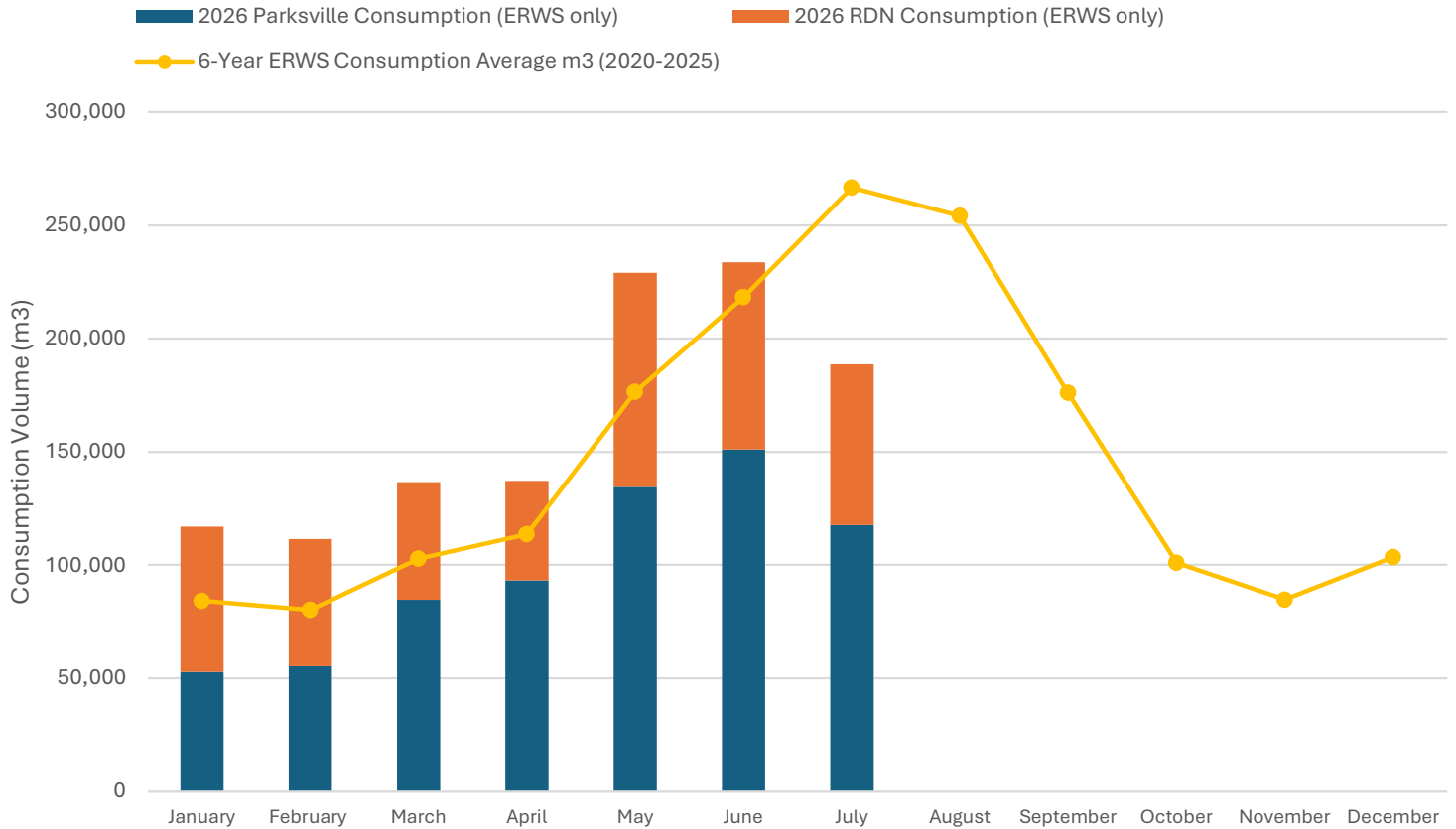


Figure 4. Parkville Consumption During Water Conservation Level 3 and 4

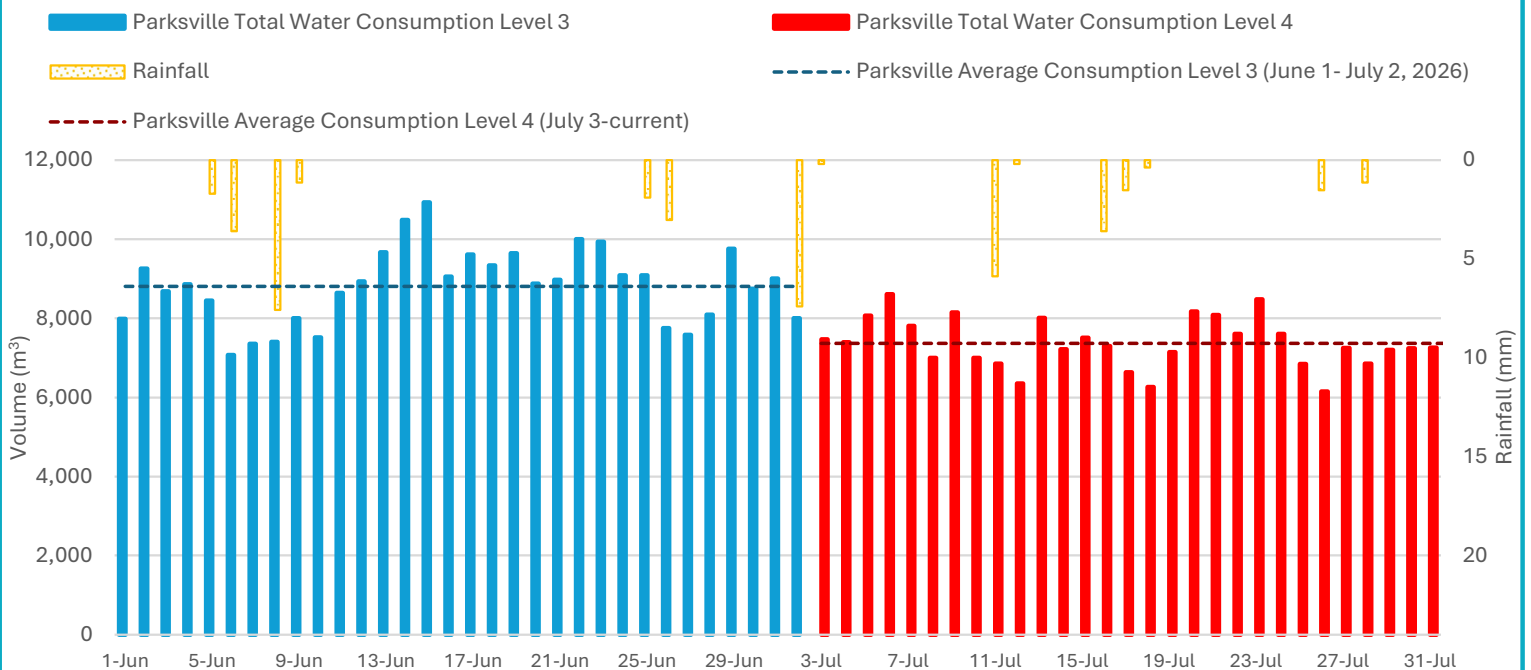


Figure 5. Englishman River Watershed

