

TO: CITY MANAGER

DATE: 2003 08 06

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

FILE: 39500-04

SUBJECT: LAWN SPRINKLING RESTRICTIONS

PURPOSE: To provide information to Council regarding the upgraded sprinkling restrictions that have been advanced by the GVRD in response to the water shortage concern.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council receive this report for information.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION:

The City received notification dated 2003 August 5 (attached) from the Greater Vancouver Water District advising of the implementation of Stage 3 of the Water Shortage Response Plan.

Recent extended period of dry and hot weather has resulted in a significant draw down of the region's drinking water reservoirs. The reservoirs are currently at about 60 per cent level, some 25 per cent lower than average for this time of year. With little precipitation forecasted in the near term, combining with continuing high demand for water, the Greater Vancouver Water District is implementing Stage 3 of the Water Shortage Response Plan.

2.0 PLAN DETAILS:

Under the Stage 3 Program, all lawn sprinkling is restricted to once per week as follows:-

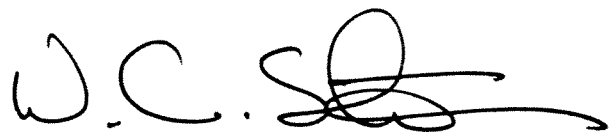
even-numbered addresses	Wednesday
odd-numbered addresses	Thursday
sprinkling hours permitted:	4 a.m. - 9 a.m. / 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

The GVRD will be placing advertisements in Vancouver Sun, community, Chinese and Punjabi media. The sprinkling restrictions will also be broadcast on four radio stations six times per day, per station.

In addition to the lawn sprinkling restrictions, the City is undertaking further water conservation initiatives including:

- suspending hydrant flushing unless it is required for public health reasons
- curtailing washing of City vehicles
- reducing general water uses

The GVRD will continue to monitor the water shortage issue and staff will keep Council informed of any further changes that may be required.



W.C. Sinclair, P. Eng.
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

LSC:slr

Attach.

Greater Vancouver Water District

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August 5, 2003

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URGENT

Dear Mr. Moncur:

Re: Stage 3 of Water Shortage Response Plan

Due to continuing high demand for water and reduced capacity of the region's water supply this year, the Greater Vancouver Water District is implementing Stage 3 of the Water Shortage Response Plan as of today, August 5, 2003.

In Stage 3, all lawn sprinkling is restricted to once per week, all hosing of outdoor surfaces is prohibited, and businesses with significant outdoor water use are requested to curtail their usage as much as possible.

With respect to lawn sprinkling, even-numbered houses and buildings may sprinkle on Wednesdays between 4 am and 9 am, or between 7 pm and 10 pm. Odd-numbered houses and buildings may sprinkle on Thursdays between 4 am and 9 am, or between 7 pm and 10 pm.

The GVRD will be placing print and broadcast advertisements to alert the public to the Stage 3 requirements. These ads, and their translation into Punjabi and Chinese, will be available to you for any additional communications actions you may wish to undertake. I understand that many municipalities have a 72-hour notification requirement in their bylaws. To coordinate with that timing, we will be placing our ads as late this week as we can.


We appreciate your municipality's commitment to actively enforce your bylaw. In addition to that, Stage 3 encourages municipalities to undertake a number of other water conservation initiatives including:

- Suspending hydrant flushing,
- Reducing municipal water use to minimum required levels,
- Curtailing flushing of streets and washing of municipal vehicles,
- Increasing emphasis on speedy leak detection and repair, and
- Limiting flow testing to cases where no practical alternative exists.

If Stage 3 does not produce the lower demand we anticipate, and the current weather pattern continues, we will carefully examine the need to move to Stage 4 of the Water Shortage Response Plan. At present, we anticipate that we will be reviewing this during the last week of August.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you or your staff have any questions regarding the Water Shortage Response Plan, please contact Nancy Knight, Demand Side Management Division Manager, at 604-436-6968. If there are questions regarding the supply system and its management, please contact Paul Archibald, Systems Operations Division Manager, at 604-432-6473.

Yours truly,



Delia Laglagaron
Deputy Water Commissioner

DL/KC

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