



August 12, 2015

To: Lower Columbia, West Kootenay and East Kootenay watershed water licence holders

Re: Low Water Advisory and Water Conservation Request

Many areas in Southeast BC are facing critical water shortages. The purpose of this letter is to request your participation in voluntary water usage reductions for the remainder of the dry season and to give you advance notification of the potential for regulated restrictions on water licences should conditions worsen.

In response to continued dry conditions and declining stream flows, the Province of British Columbia has declared Level 3 drought conditions for the Lower Columbia, West Kootenay and East Kootenay watersheds. Find the information bulletins online at:

<http://www.livingwatersmart.ca/drought/advisories.html>

The source of water for your water licence has been identified as being within the Lower Columbia, West Kootenay or East Kootenay watersheds. We are asking licence holders to help water conservation efforts by voluntarily reducing their licenced allocated water use by **30%**. Reducing all water use is important; especially where licenced water use is not supported by licenced storage. If your water licence includes a storage component, we encourage you to consider not diverting water for the purpose of storage at this time.

Many licensees have already prepared and have reduced consumption to deal with water supply shortages and low streamflow conditions through drought management plans, water conservation programs and voluntary reductions.

Water conservation is everyone's responsibility. The documents included with this notice provide an overview of our areas recent climatic situation and water conservation information. Further information and regular situational updates can be found at the following websites:

- Drought advisories and information bulletins:
<http://www.livingwatersmart.ca/drought/advisories.html>
- Drought information and drought maps by water basin:
<http://www.livingwatersmart.ca/drought/>
- Snowpack and water supply conditions:
<http://bcrcfc.env.gov.bc.ca/bulletins/watersupply/current.htm>
- Low streamflow advisories: <http://bcrcfc.env.gov.bc.ca/lowflow/index.htm>

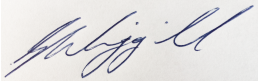
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- Information and tips for ranchers and the agriculture industry:
<http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/publist/Water.htm#drought>
- Information regarding fish habitat protection and the Fisheries Protection Policy:
<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/pol/index-eng.html>

If you have questions about drought or drought conditions, please contact Tara DeCourcy at tara.decourcy@gov.bc.ca.

Conserving water is everyone's responsibility, even more so in times of water shortage. Thank you for your support.

Yours truly,



Garth Wiggill
A/ Regional Executive Director
Kootenay Boundary Region

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