

July 6, 2023

Dear Tofino-Long Beach Chamber of Commerce,

The District of Tofino is initiating Stage 3 water restrictions on Monday, July 10, 2023. The decision to move to Stage 3 is based on Tofino's current water usage, the weather forecast, projected visitor occupancy, and source water supply.

The District's source water is collected with gratitude from the rainforests protected by Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks in the Haahuulthii of the Tla-o-qui-aht Ha'wiih. The watershed on Meares Island relies on rainfall and fog to supply the creeks that feed into the District's reservoirs. For much of the year, water spills over the two dams on Meares Island meaning that the system produces more water than the District can use or store. At some point every summer, water stops spilling over the dams which is an indication that the demand is exceeding supply. A lack of any appreciable rainfall over the last two months due to the ongoing provincial drought combined with high water consumption means that this event is occurring earlier than normal.

During Stage 3 water restrictions all outdoor water use is prohibited on all properties. In order to maintain adequate storage for fire flow and daily usage, it is imperative that we all undertake further conservation measures to reduce consumption and allow our water system more time to replenish. The actions we all take during Stage 3 will delay the potential of moving to Stage 4 water restrictions.

The District will be hosting a town hall on water conservation the week of July 17 and we will be inviting all members of the community to attend. There will be a presentation from staff including the following:

- How the District's water system works;
- Improvements made to the system over the last 15 years;
- Introductions to the District's water team;
- An opportunity to share more on the recent water pipeline repair; and
- Information on the ongoing water masterplan project.

The session will include key takeaways from the District on water conservation and will provide an opportunity to collaborate on additional key takeaways for residents, businesses and the municipality.

The Province has asked local governments to prepare for adverse impacts as a result of current and sustained drought conditions. As a proactive local government with a well-established emergency program, we began preparing for this in the Spring.

The town hall discussion will be held in person and virtually and an invitation will be sent out later this week. We look forward to sharing and hearing from the business community and the residents of Tofino on water conservation. We encourage all members to follow District communications to receive water updates.

Sincerely,

Nyla Attiana
Chief Administrative Officer