



Job Number: 138984

July 31, 2026

Big White Water Utility Ltd
1894 Ambrosi Road
Kelowna BC V1Y 4R9

Dear Big White Water Utility Ltd,

Request for Water Conservation Efforts

Many areas in the West Kettle River watershed are showing an increased risk of water scarcity for people and the environment.

All water users are asked to voluntarily reduce water use and withdrawals for essential and non-essential purposes.

Making voluntary reductions now may prevent or delay the need to restrict or suspend water use later in the season. Regulatory action under the *Water Sustainability Act* may be needed as a last resort if voluntary efforts are not enough to restore stream flow and protect at-risk fish and the environment from long-lasting or irreversible harm. This can include issuing a temporary protection order, as a last resort, to suspend water use.

You are encouraged to work with other water licensees in your community to help achieve meaningful water conservation. By working together, we can better manage our shared water needs.

Why your help matters

When conditions are dry, surface water and groundwater levels can drop if there's not enough rain or snowmelt to replenish them. Groundwater can be connected to surface water which means diverting groundwater can also lower levels in nearby rivers and streams. Sustained low stream flow and above average water temperatures can cause long-lasting or irreversible harm to fish, wildlife and the

environment. We also need to make sure there is a fair supply of water for people to drink, grow our food, and fight fires.

What you can do

Follow the obligations and withdrawal limits in your water licence. If you also use water from a water supplier, follow local water restrictions in your community.

Review and monitor your water usage. Avoid non-essential water use and find ways to use less water for essential purposes.

Irrigators can check for and repair leaks in irrigation systems, improve sprinkler irrigation efficiency and complete regular nozzle checks. Where possible, coordinate with other irrigators in your area to stagger watering schedules. Storage licensees are encouraged to rely on their stored water and minimize diversions. Drought resources and supports are available to farmers and food producers at gov.bc.ca/AgDrought.

Impacts in your area

Drought is a natural climate condition measured relative to the past. Water scarcity is a lack of water for ecological or human needs. We can't control whether drought happens, but we can control whether water scarcity does. Local water scarcity can occur at any drought level, and it can be made worse by drought. It's important to start saving water early and keep doing so when there is a risk of water scarcity, regardless of the drought level.

The West Kettle River watershed provides important habitat for many culturally and ecologically significant fish and other wildlife species. The area experienced below-normal snowpack this winter and an earlier than normal freshet. As a result, the area is experiencing severe drought and water scarcity conditions that are expected to persist in the coming months. These conditions, together with below-average rainfall, are reducing stream flows and limiting water availability.

Stay informed about the risks to aquatic ecosystems and water sources in your area by visiting the B.C. Drought Information Portal regularly at droughtportal.gov.bc.ca.

Drought preparation and response

The Government of B.C. is working with communities, farmers, First Nations and businesses to prepare for and respond to drought. This includes monitoring conditions and impacts, supporting farmers and food producers, building infrastructure to manage and store water, protecting the environment, and working with industry and large water users to reduce water use and help preserve water for essential needs.

Conserving water now can help reduce the risk of impacts later. If voluntary efforts are not enough to restore critical stream flow, temporary protection orders may be issued as a last resort to legally restrict or suspend water use.

To protect water licence holders and the environment, we will continue to investigate and address unauthorized water use. While our first step is always to help people come into compliance, enforcement action may be taken on unauthorized users and anyone who does not follow authorized withdrawal limits or temporary protection orders. Failure to comply could result in administrative penalties under the *Water Sustainability Act* and regulations. Incidents of suspected water and environmental violations can be reported to the Natural Resource Violation line at 1-877-952-7277.

You can learn more about how B.C. is preparing for and responding to drought at gov.bc.ca/Drought.

For reference, our records indicate you hold the following water licences in this area:

Licence: C103242 **Source:** Trapping Creek

- **Purpose Use:** Stream Storage: Non-Power
- **Quantity:** 259,030.80000 m³/year
- **Purpose Use:** Waterworks: Local Provider
- **Quantity:** 217,155.58138 m³/year

Licence: C114970 **Source:** Trapping Creek

- **Purpose Use:** Stream Storage: Non-Power
- **Quantity:** 91,277.52000 m³/year
- **Purpose Use:** Waterworks: Local Provider
- **Quantity:** 81,829.62000 m³/year

Licence: C118739 **Source:** Hallam Creek

- **Purpose Use:** Stream Storage: Non-Power
- **Quantity:** 246,696.00000 m³/year
- **Purpose Use:** Waterworks (other than LP)
- **Quantity:** 1,363.82700 m³/day

If you have any questions about drought and water scarcity and your role in responding to these risks, please contact DroughtOps@gov.bc.ca.

Thank you for your efforts to save water. Together, we can respond early, recover faster and be more ready for the future.

Sincerely,

Drought Operations Team
Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship