

Cowichan Bay Waterworks District

Cowichan Bay Waterworks District is committed to providing our community with high quality drinking water that is safe, cost effective and sustainable, including provisions for fire protection, now and in the future.



Fall Newsletter October 2025



Office Hours

Open: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Tuesday - Thursday

After Hours Emergency Number: (250) 710-8207

Website: www.cowichanbaywater.com

Contact Us:

Office Location: 1760 Pavenham Road

Office Telephone: (250) 748-1687

Office Email: info@cowichanbaywater.com

District Administrator's Message By Nicole Ponte

Hello! I am excited to join the Cowichan Bay Waterworks District as the new District Administrator.

After spending years working in municipal government, construction and property management, I'm eager to bring my experience in administration, leadership and community engagement to this role.

I'm very fortunate to be joining such a dedicated and knowledgeable team. The staff's commitment to providing safe, reliable water service and their genuine care for the community is inspiring. I'm grateful for the warm welcome and for the opportunity to work alongside such a passionate group of professionals.

Having recently relocated back to Vancouver Island from the Lower Mainland, I feel incredibly fortunate to consider the Cowichan Valley home. I look forward to meeting with community members and continuing to advocate for the district and community.

Recent Events

McGill Road Watermain Work

During a culvert replacement being performed by the province, a watermain on McGill Road was damaged. Given that the watermain was already exposed, we had the opportunity to replace a 16' section of the watermain, which had a leak.

There was a minor water delivery impact to nearby residents, and we are appreciative of their understanding.

Holiday Office Hours

Please be aware that the Cowichan Bay Waterworks District Office will close for the holiday season on Friday, December 19th, 2025 and re-open on Tuesday, January 6th, 2026.

Happy Fall!

From the Administrative Staff

IS YOUR METER BOX CLEAR?

Water meters are to be kept accessible at all times for Meter Reading and Maintenance.

After notice is given to a homeowner and no action is taken there will be a charge for our Water Operators to remove the obstacle.

NO ITEMS ALLOWED ON WATER METERS

Sign up for **Alerts** on www.cowichanbaywater.com to stay up to date on current events.

If you would like to receive your **Water Bill by email**, please send us a note with your full name, phone number, and address to: info@cowichanbaywater.com

Ongoing Stage 3 Water Restrictions

You may have noticed that surrounding Districts have started lifting their water restrictions.

The district has carefully reviewed our water production volumes, up to and including usage into the early days of October. Although our current daily production has recovered from the highs of the summer, our current production is in excess of our water allocation, set by the province. The limitation on our water licensing allocation was discussed at the 2025 AGM.

As such, we have made the difficult decision to maintain our Stage 3 Water Restrictions indefinitely.

We are actively pursuing dialogue with the province and advocating for the water licensing needs of our community – both our existing needs and to accommodate future growth.

We appreciate the understanding of the community in this decision and appreciate continued measures towards water conservation.

Water Use Restrictions as per By-Law 363

Outdoor watering, when permitted, may occur only between 7 pm in the evening and 9 am the next morning.

Watering in the evening, nighttime or early morning reduces water wasted due to evaporation and reduces the peak water consumption by spreading out the use over a longer period of time.

	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4
	May 1 – Oct. 31	Provincial Drought Code 3 ¹ Effective Date as Required	Provincial Drought Code 4 ¹ Effective Date as Required	Effective Date as Required

Conventional Irrigation Systems and Sprinkling

Lawn, Vegetable Gardens, Fruit Trees, Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Flower Gardens	2 hours / day Even Addresses – Wed & Sat Odd Addresses – Thu & Sun	2 hours / day Even Addresses – Wed Odd Addresses - Sun	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
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Hand Watering, Micro/Drip Irrigation ³

Vegetable Gardens, Fruit Trees	4 hours / day	4 hours / day	2 hours / day	2 hours / day
Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Flower Gardens	2 hours / day	2 hours / day	1 hours / day	1 hours / day
Lawns	2 hours / day	1 hours / day	Not Permitted	Not Permitted

New lawn watering permits will no longer be allowed ²

Other Outdoor Water Use

Filling Pools & Hot Tubs ⁴	Not Permitted			
Washing Vehicles or Boats	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	Permitted Under Certain Circumstances ⁵	Not Permitted
Washing Driveways, Houses, Sidewalks	No Restrictions	Permitted Under Certain Circumstances	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
Sports Fields ⁶	Reduced Watering	Reduced Watering, Conservation Measures	Reduced or Eliminated Watering	Reduced or Eliminated Watering
Private Wells, Agriculture ⁷	Regulated by Provincial Government (Not Supplied from Community Potable Water Systems)			

- 1 The various restrictions Stages will be imposed in conjunction with the corresponding Provincial Drought Code. Jurisdictions may move to a given Stage ahead of the Corresponding Provincial Drought Code Based on state of the water system.
- 2 Irrigation of new lawns must follow the restrictions for established lawns.
- 3 Micro/drip irrigation delivers water to the root zone of the plants and uses less than 90 L/hr 20 imperial gallons per hour) at less than 25 psi. Weeper hoses are considered micro-drip irrigation and are permitted; soaker hoses are not permitted. A weeper hose emits water through very small pores in the rubber; there is no water spray stream emitted from the hose, resulting in less evaporation than a soaker hose. A soaker hose has holes that are large enough to emit water as a spray stream, resulting in more evaporation than a micro/drip irrigation system or a weeper hose.
- 4 The filling of swimming pools is not permitted in Cowichan Bay Waterworks District [Bylaw #230]
- 5 For residential properties, washing driveways, houses or sidewalks is only permitted up to Stage 3. Residential washing (i.e. not at a car wash facility which reuses water) of vehicles and boats is only permitted up to Stage 3 in preparation of applying paints or preservatives. Commercial enterprises which require water use to facilitate normal business activities are exempt from some Stage 2 and 3 water restrictions. These include nurseries, turf farms or tree farms, car wash / detailers, power washing companies, window washing companies, etc.
- 6 School and Municipal playing fields are often sand-based and require regular watering. For that reason, they are exempt from sprinkling regulations. Regardless, efforts are made to reduce water use and the irrigation timings are adjusted to reduce evaporation and avoid times of higher water consumption.
- 7 If necessary, the Provincial Government can require the curtailment of water use for private wells and for agricultural purposes.