

# Report to Council



**Date:** July 22, 2024  
**To:** Council  
**From:** City Manager  
**Subject:** Water Supply Update – July 2024  
**Department:** Utility Services

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**Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from Utility Services dated July 22, 2024, with respect to the status of anticipated water supplies for the remainder of 2024;

AND THAT Council rescind the declaration that Agricultural Customers of the Kelowna Water Utility cannot exceed their annual Allotment in 2024; and that the City may shut off water services in the event that Customers exceed their Allotment.

**Purpose:**

To provide an update on the water supply status for the Kelowna Water Utility.

**Background:**

On April 22, 2024, Council passed a resolution moving the Kelowna water utility to Stage 1 Water Use Restrictions and declaring that Agricultural Customers are to be limited to their annual water allotment of 685mm in accordance with the Water Regulation Bylaw **for 2024 only**. At that time, staff were concerned that a continued dry spring would result in inadequate upland storage at McCulloch Reservoir, which was necessary to reliably provide adequate irrigation water to all allotted properties relying on the non-potable water system.

From the potable water perspective, staff were also concerned that potentially low water levels in Okanagan Lake may drive imposed water restrictions from the Province later in the year.

Stage 1 water restrictions do not impose additional water restrictions beyond the “normal” stage but are intended to raise awareness of drought conditions and prepare the community for the possibility of moving to more impactful watering restrictions.

Stage 1 water restrictions for lawn and garden irrigation for non-farm properties using either potable or non-potable water are publicly posted on Kelowna.ca and are as follows:

Odd numbered addresses	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
Even numbered addresses	Wednesday, Friday, Sunday
No watering allowed	Mondays

*Relevant Portion of Previous Council Resolution:*

<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Date</b>
<i>AND THAT due to drought conditions leading to an anticipated shortage in supply of water in the Non-Potable water system, Council declare Stage 1 Water Use Restrictions be in effect for all water customers of the Kelowna Water Utility;</i>	April 22, 2024
<i>AND FURTHER THAT Council declare that Agricultural Customers of the Kelowna Water Utility cannot exceed their annual Allotment in 2024; and that the City may shut off water services in the event that Customers exceed their Allotment.</i>	

**Discussion:**

Since the April 22, 2024 declarations by Council, water supply conditions have improved considerably. This spring's cooler growing conditions, timely rain events and challenging crop conditions have led to a reduced demand and increased reservoir levels. McCulloch Reservoir reached full pool on June 5, 2024. Staff generally consider a full reservoir provides the needed irrigation water for the rest of the irrigation season regardless of how hot or dry the rest of summer turns out.

On Okanagan Lake, proactive water management by the Province has allowed the Okanagan Lake to reach a peak level of 342.28m, only 0.20m below full pool. While there are no drought declarations on the lake as of this date, the Province remains concerned over its commitments on the Okanagan River downstream as precipitation levels remain below normal and the summer heat ramps up.

**Conclusion:**

Staff recommend that the Utility remain at Stage 1 watering restrictions to avoid waste and preserve the water supply stability that has been re-established.

Staff are confident that the non-potable water system has adequate water storage to meet the needs of our irrigation customers for the remainder of 2024.

**Internal Circulation:**

Communications

***Communications Comments:***

The City publishes water conservation public awareness messaging throughout the summer through a variety of channels such as social media, Kelowna.ca and our e-updates direct to residents who have subscribed to receive updates from the City. High use agriculture water customers were contacted following the April 22 resolution to restrict agricultural properties to their allotment. Customer notification to advise of the amendments to this resolution will occur through various grower associations and the City's website.

**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

***Legal/Statutory Authority:***

***Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:***

***Existing Policy:***

***Consultation and Engagement:***

***Financial/Budgetary Considerations:***

Submitted by: K. Van Vliet, Utility Services Department Manager

Approved for inclusion: M. Logan, General Manager of Infrastructure

cc: Communications Director