

**REPORT TO REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2020**

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**SUBJECT**     **Water Conservation Bylaw No. 4099 – Amendment**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Water Conservation Bylaw is being updated to allow for changes related to enforcement, notification and stage restrictions.

**BACKGROUND**

The Water Conservation Bylaw regulates the use of drinking water supplied by the CRD from the Regional Water Supply. This supply serves water directly to customers in the District of Metchosin, City of Colwood, Town of View Royal, City of Langford, District of Sooke, District of Highlands and part of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area in east Sooke, in addition to supplying bulk water to the City of Victoria, District of Oak Bay, District of Saanich, Township of Esquimalt, District of Central Saanich, District of North Saanich, and the Town of Sidney.

Staff have reviewed the application of the bylaw over the past two years and analyzed water usage data trends in the region and are recommending the changes incorporated within Bylaw No. 4261 (Appendix A). These changes are highlighted in a blacklined version of Bylaw No. 4099 (Appendix B). Bylaw 4099 was adopted by the CRD Board in 2016 and was previously amended in 2018 to remove prohibitions related to once-through cooling equipment (unofficial consolidated version, Appendix C).

Bylaw No. 4358 (Appendix D) contains the corresponding amendments to the CRD Municipal Ticket Information (MTI) Bylaw.

**ALTERNATIVES**

*Alternative 1*

The Regional Water Supply Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That Bylaw No. 4261, "Capital Regional District Water Conservation Bylaw No. 1, 2016 Amendment Bylaw No. 2, 2020" be introduced and read a first, second, and third time, and;
2. That Bylaw No. 4261 be adopted.
3. That Bylaw No. 4358, "Capital Regional District Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 68, 2020", be introduced and read a first, second, and third time; and
4. That Bylaw No. 4358 be adopted.

*Alternative 2*

That Bylaws No. 4261 and 4358 be referred back to staff for further review.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### *Financial Implications*

Bylaw No. 4261 does not change the previously budgeted cost of enforcing and promoting the Water Conservation Bylaw. Amounts for penalties (fines) remain unchanged in the MTI bylaw.

### *Service Delivery Implications*

Staff have determined that Stage 1 water restrictions are better handled using education and proactive measures to encourage voluntary behavioral change, rather than a strict compliance and enforcement framework. During Stage 1 restrictions, staff will continue to emphasize outreach and education and reduce the focus on enforcement (ticketing). If future summer conditions result in acute or severe water shortages, stringent water restrictions under Stages 2 and 3 are available to further reduce water use and ensure protection of the drinking water service. The bylaw retains the authority to enforce water conservation measures in the bylaw at the discretion of the General Manager for the Integrated Water Service (General Manager), as required, to ensure a safe consistent water supply.

Additional changes include removal of the temporary water use permits, simplified language for exemptions, and less prescriptive notice requirements for stage implementation.

### *Climate Implications and Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies*

Bylaw No. 4261 aligns with the Regional Water Supply 2017 Strategic Plan's commitment to provide an adequate, long-term supply of drinking water. This bylaw forms part of the planning and preparation for future water supply needs to meet demand and consider the impacts of climate change, population growth and per-capita demand trends. The bylaw is the foundation of a strategy to reduce per capita water use in order to defer the need for additional water supply, treatment and transmission capacity in the supply system, until necessary to support population growth.

Continued and improved outreach and education will develop a higher level of public understanding of the drinking water supply system and the value of the Regional Water Supply.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Capital Regional District Water Conservation Bylaw is being updated to allow for changes related to enforcement, notification and stage restrictions. These changes shift the focus of Stage 1 watering restrictions away from administratively heavy bylaw enforcement towards outreach and education. Continued and improved outreach will develop a higher level of public understanding of the drinking water supply system and the value of water through education and engagement.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Regional Water Supply Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That Bylaw No. 4261, “Capital Regional District Water Conservation Bylaw No. 1, 2016, Amendment Bylaw No. 2, 2020” be introduced and read a first, second, and third time, and;
2. That Bylaw No. 4261 be adopted.
3. That Bylaw No. 4358, “Capital Regional District Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 68, 2020”, be introduced and read a first, second, and third time; and
4. That Bylaw No. 4358 be adopted.

Submitted by:	Glenn Harris, Ph.D., R.P.Bio., Senior Manager, Environmental Protection
Concurrence:	Kristen Morley, J.D., General Manager, Corporate Services & Corporate Officer
Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P.Eng., General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B.Sc., C.Tech., General Manager, Integrated Water Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Appendix A: Bylaw No. 4261, Capital Regional District Water Conservation Bylaw No. 1, 2016, Amendment Bylaw No. 2, 2020
- Appendix B: Blacklined version of Bylaw No. 4099
- Appendix C: Unofficial Consolidated Bylaw No. 4099, Capital Regional District Water Conservation Bylaw No. 1, 2016
- Appendix D: Bylaw No. 4358, Capital Regional District Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 68, 2020