



## **Town of Gibsons and SCR D Complete Testing of Water Exchange System**

*May 12, 2021* – The Town of Gibsons and the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCR D) have completed two trials to confirm that the Town could supply the SCR D’s Zone 3 residents with water in the event of an emergency.

The controlled water flow tests employed new water infrastructure in Upper Gibsons and were a joint effort involving staff from the Town of Gibsons and the SCR D. The first test occurred on April 15<sup>th</sup> and the second was on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

While the two tests were designed to show that water from the Town of Gibsons’ system could be used to supplement the SCR D’s water supply in case of a large fire or major watermain break in the nearby area, the water exchange can also be from the SCR D to the Town.

The Town’s existing water infrastructure is equipped to supply its residents with regular water supply from the Gibsons Aquifer but still relies on the SCR D for peak hour water use and emergency situations such as fires.

*“Given the critical nature of water, it is extremely reassuring to know that the Town and the SCR D are able to supplement one another’s water supply when required,”* said Town of Gibsons’ Mayor Bill Beamish. *“The initiative is also a great example of true regional collaboration, which is something our local governments have been working to promote in recent years.”*

*“Just six-months ago, a landslide occurred that could have impacted water mains at the Chapman Creek Water Treatment Plant,”* said SCR D Board Chair Lori Pratt. *“In that case, thanks to a quick response from our staff, we were able to secure our water supply. However, it reaffirmed the need to have contingency plans in place to ensure our residents continue to have access to water in emergency situations. This water exchange testing project shows that when our local governments work together, we are able to find solutions that benefit all residents on the Sunshine Coast.”*

The water exchange tests, which were designed to measure water flow to the SCR D, were another step in the development of an emergency response preparedness plan that would ensure water availability for essential services. Staff from both organizations considered the tests to be a success.

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