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Town of Gibsons to Move to Stage 3 Water Restrictions in Order to Help Supply SCRD

September 1, 2021 – The Town of Gibsons (the Town) will be moving to Stage 3 water restrictions as of September 3, 2021 at midnight. The change, which will affect all three of the Town’s water zones, is being made to facilitate the Town supplying water to the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) on a temporary emergency basis.

At their Special Meeting held Tuesday, August 31st, Council of the Town of Gibsons passed the following resolution: “THAT Council direct staff to provide emergency water to the SCRD during the 2021 water crisis to a maximum of 1,000 cubic meters per day, providing that the essential water needs of the Town are not compromised”.

“As most people know, the regional district’s current Chapman water supply is extremely low, with most of its residents at Stage 4 water regulations,” said Dave Newman, Town of Gibsons’ Director of Infrastructure Services. *“Rigorous monitoring of the Gibsons Aquifer tells us that there is ample capacity to provide water to our neighbours in the SCRD – particularly if our community reduces its own water use. For that reason, we will be implementing Stage 3 water restrictions effective midnight on September 3, 2021.”*

Stage 3 watering restrictions forbid sprinkling (except with micro-drip irrigation), but allow for hand watering of trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables, including greenhouse plants. The restrictions also prohibit washing vehicles, boats, sidewalks, driveways, windows, fences and exterior building surfaces, as well as filling swimming pools, spas, garden ponds and decorative fountains.

“Given the ongoing debate around possible solutions to the SCRD’s water supply challenges, we think it’s important to note that the Town’s installation of water meters about 10 years ago was a key factor in our ability to respond to the regional district’s current shortfall,” added Newman. *“Mainly through the ability to detect leaks, the meters helped cut the Town’s per capita water usage by more than half, from approximately 800 litres per day to approximately 350 litres per day. As a result, we are now well-positioned to supplement the SCRD’s water supply on a temporary basis.”*

It is anticipated that the SCRD will return an equivalent amount of water to the Town during the latter part of this year, when the Chapman Lake reservoir has been replenished through rainfall.

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For more information, please contact:
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“Nature is our most valuable asset”