From: "van Dyk, Donny"
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 6/5/2026 1:36:53 PM
Subject: Memo - ENG - Metro Vancouver Activation of Stage 3 of the Drinking Water Conservation Plan, effective June 8, 2026
Attachments: ENG - Metro Vancouver Activation of Stage 3 of the Drinking Wate r Conservation Plan, effective June 8, 2026.pdf

---

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see attached memo from Lon LaClaire. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- Due to severe drought conditions, snowpack levels declining to approximately 15% of the historical average, and ongoing operational pressure on regional water supplies associated with the Stanley Park water supply tunnel replacement, Metro Vancouver has directed the activation of Stage 3 water use restrictions effective June 8, 2026.
- The City of Vancouver will implement Stage 3 restrictions effective June 8, 2026, in alignment with Metro Vancouver and other regional municipalities, following the required 72-hour public notification period.
- Stage 3 restrictions further limit non-essential water use, including prohibiting all automatic irrigation and lawn watering, restricting landscape watering to hand watering or drip irrigation, and prohibiting the filling or topping up of aesthetic water features.
- All City departments, contractors, and partner agencies are expected to comply with Stage 3 restrictions and review discretionary water use activities, unless required for operational, public health, or public safety purposes.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lon LaClaire at 604.873.7336 or Lon.LaClaire@Vancouver.ca

Thanks,

Donny

Donny van Dyk (he/him)

City Manager

City of Vancouver

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

CITY OF VANCOUVER

ENGINEERING SERVICES
Lon LaClaire, M.Eng., P.Eng.
City Engineer/General Manager

MEMORANDUM

June 5, 2026

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: City Leadership Team
Donny van Dyk, City Manager
Jason Twa, City Clerk
Mellisa Morphy, Acting Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office

FROM: Lon LaClaire
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Metro Vancouver Activation of Stage 3 of the Drinking Water Conservation Plan, effective June 8, 2026.

RTS #: N/A

This memo provides an update on the 2026 activation of Metro Vancouver's Drinking Water Conservation Plan (DWCP) and the transition from Stage 2 to Stage 3 water use restrictions. Due to early drought concerns and below-average snowpack conditions, Metro Vancouver directed the activation of Stage 2 water use restrictions effective May 1, 2026, to reduce non-essential outdoor water use and conserve regional drinking water supplies.

However, snowpack levels are now less than 15% of the historical average based on the Metro Vancouver[1] May 31, 2026 update, regional drought conditions are still anticipated[2] and operational constraints associated with the Stanley Park water supply tunnel replacement are placing increasing strain on the regional drinking water system.

In response, Metro Vancouver's Chief Administrative Officer has directed the activation of **Stage 3 water use restrictions effective June 8, 2026** (*see Appendix A*) to further reduce non-essential water use and preserve regional drinking water supplies for essential needs, public health, and fire protection.

Metro Vancouver notified member jurisdictions on June 1, 2026, to allow for the required 72-hour notification period prior to enforcement. Stage 3 restrictions significantly reduce allowable outdoor water use activities, including prohibiting all automatic irrigation, limiting landscape watering activities, and further restricting the use of drinking water for non-essential purposes.

[1] https://metrovancouver.org/services/water/reservoir-levels-water-use
[2] Encouraging people to prepare for seasonal hazards - BC Gov News.

2026 BC's Top Employers

Metro Vancouver has advised that despite reservoir levels remaining within seasonal operating range, extremely low snowpack and limited inflows significantly reduce the ability to replenish regional water supplies as demand increases through the summer season.

Activation of Stage 3 Restrictions

Under the City of Vancouver Drinking Water Conservation By-law No. 12086, the City Engineer will activate **Stage 3 water use restrictions effective June 8, 2026,** in alignment with Metro Vancouver and other regional municipalities. In accordance with the by-law, a 72-hour public notification period is required. City staff will update all communications platforms accordingly, and Stage 3 water restriction enforcement will commence on **June 8**, **2026**.

All City departments, contractors and partner agencies are expected to comply with Stage 3 restrictions unless operational (Water Use Plan), public health, or public safety exemptions apply. Departments are reviewing discretionary water use activities and implementing conservation measure wherever feasible.

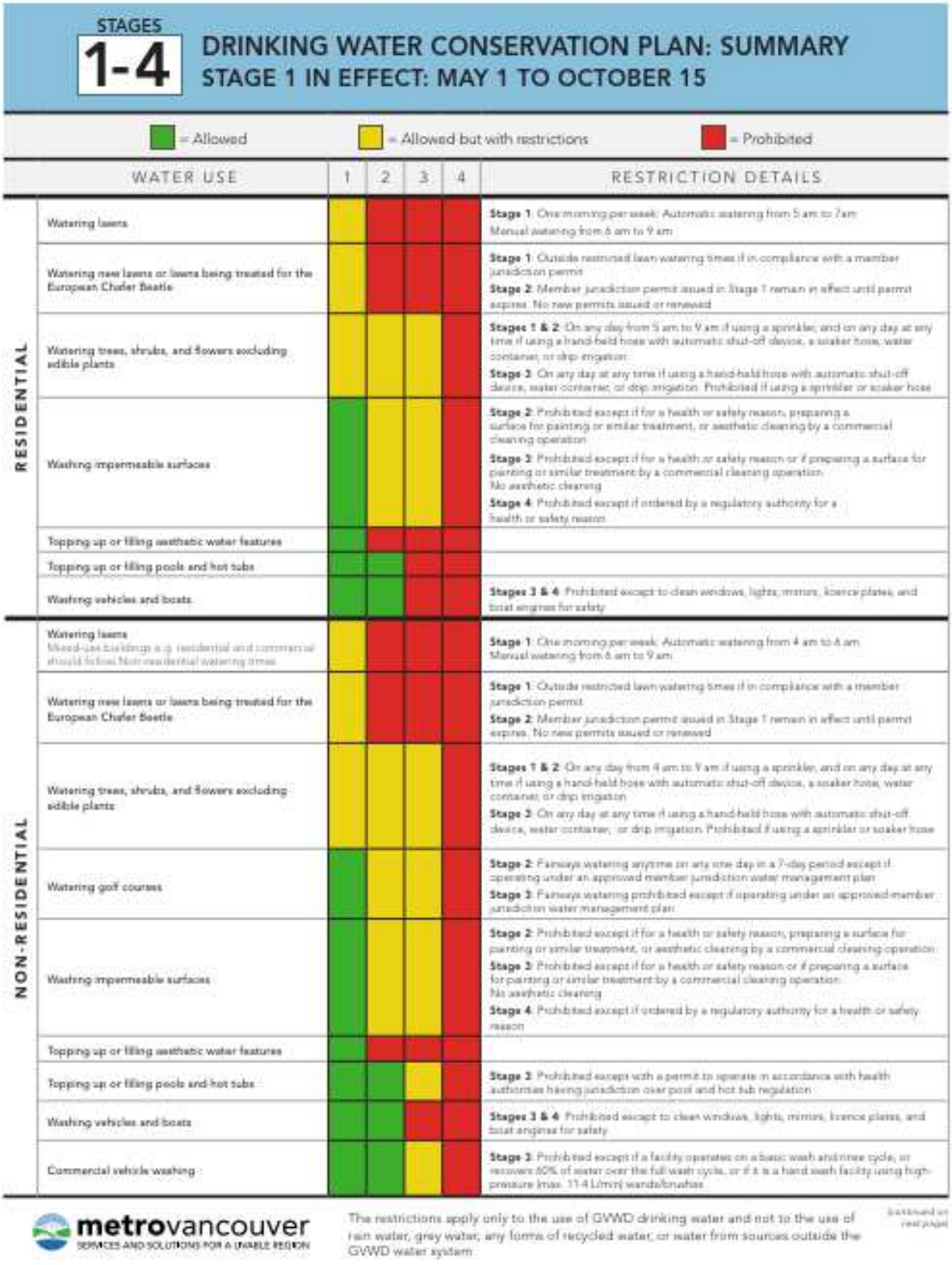
Approved Water Use Plans remain in effect under Stage 3 of Metro Vancouver's Drinking Water Conservation Plan for City of Vancouver and Park Board golf courses and playing fields, including FIFA World Cup training facilities. Water required to support FIFA-related commercial operations at BC Place and associated event infrastructure remains permitted.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly.



Lon LaClaire, M.Eng., P.Eng.
General Manager, Engineering Services
604.873.7336 | lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca

APPENDIX A



STAGES 1-4

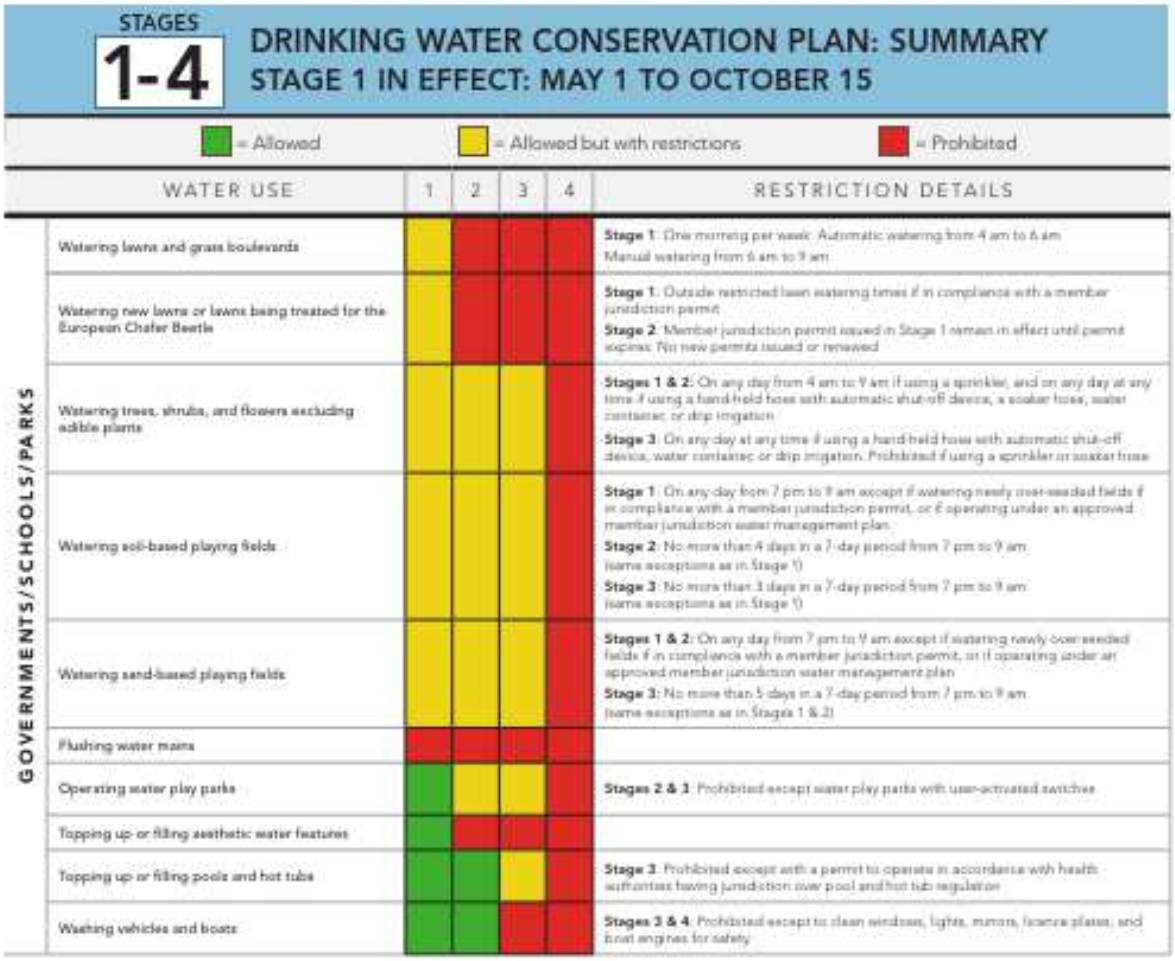
DRINKING WATER CONSERVATION PLAN: SUMMARY
STAGE 1 IN EFFECT: MAY 1 TO OCTOBER 15

= Allowed = Allowed but with restrictions = Prohibited

	WATER USE	1	2	3	4	RESTRICTION DETAILS
RESIDENTIAL	Watering lawns					**Stage 1**: One morning per week: Automatic watering from 5 am to 7 am Manual watering from 6 am to 9 am
	Watering new lawns or lawns being treated for the European Chafer Beetle					**Stage 1**: Outside restricted lawn watering times if in compliance with a member jurisdiction permit **Stage 2**: Member jurisdiction permit issued in Stage 1 remain in effect until permit expires. No new permits issued or renewed
	Watering trees, shrubs, and flowers excluding edible plants					**Stages 1 & 2**: On any day from 5 am to 9 am if using a sprinkler, and on any day at any time if using a hand-held hose with automatic shut-off device, a soaker hose, water container, or drip irrigation **Stage 3**: On any day at any time if using a hand-held hose with automatic shut-off device, water container, or drip irrigation. Prohibited if using a sprinkler or soaker hose
	Washing impermeable surfaces					**Stage 2**: Prohibited except if for a health or safety reason, preparing a surface for painting or similar treatment, or aesthetic cleaning by a commercial cleaning operation **Stage 3**: Prohibited except if for a health or safety reason or if preparing a surface for painting or similar treatment by a commercial cleaning operation. No aesthetic cleaning **Stage 4**: Prohibited except if ordered by a regulatory authority for a health or safety reason
	Topping up or filling aesthetic water features					
	Topping up or filling pools and hot tubs					
	Washing vehicles and boats					**Stages 3 & 4**: Prohibited except to clean windows, lights, mirrors, licence plates, and boat engines for safety
NON-RESIDENTIAL	Watering lawns Mixed-use buildings e.g. residential and commercial should follow Non-residential watering times					**Stage 1**: One morning per week: Automatic watering from 4 am to 6 am Manual watering from 6 am to 9 am
	Watering new lawns or lawns being treated for the European Chafer Beetle					**Stage 1**: Outside restricted lawn watering times if in compliance with a member jurisdiction permit **Stage 2**: Member jurisdiction permit issued in Stage 1 remain in effect until permit expires. No new permits issued or renewed
	Watering trees, shrubs, and flowers excluding edible plants					**Stages 1 & 2**: On any day from 4 am to 9 am if using a sprinkler, and on any day at any time if using a hand-held hose with automatic shut-off device, a soaker hose, water container, or drip irrigation **Stage 3**: On any day at any time if using a hand-held hose with automatic shut-off device, water container, or drip irrigation. Prohibited if using a sprinkler or soaker hose
	Watering golf courses					**Stage 2**: Fairways watering anytime on any one day in a 7-day period except if operating under an approved member jurisdiction water management plan **Stage 3**: Fairways watering prohibited except if operating under an approved member jurisdiction water management plan
	Washing impermeable surfaces					**Stage 2**: Prohibited except if for a health or safety reason, preparing a surface for painting or similar treatment, or aesthetic cleaning by a commercial cleaning operation **Stage 3**: Prohibited except if for a health or safety reason or if preparing a surface for painting or similar treatment by a commercial cleaning operation. No aesthetic cleaning **Stage 4**: Prohibited except if ordered by a regulatory authority for a health or safety reason
	Topping up or filling aesthetic water features					
	Topping up or filling pools and hot tubs					**Stage 3**: Prohibited except with a permit to operate in accordance with health authorities having jurisdiction over pool and hot tub regulation
	Washing vehicles and boats					**Stages 3 & 4**: Prohibited except to clean windows, lights, mirrors, licence plates, and boat engines for safety
	Commercial vehicle washing					**Stage 3**: Prohibited except if a facility operates on a basic wash and rinse cycle, or recovers 80% of water over the full wash cycle, or if it is a hand wash facility using high-pressure (max. 11.4 L/min) wands/brushes

metrovancouver
SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION

The restrictions apply only to the use of GVWD drinking water and not to the use of rain water, grey water, any forms of recycled water, or water from sources outside the GVWD water system



STAGES 1-4

DRINKING WATER CONSERVATION PLAN: SUMMARY
STAGE 1 IN EFFECT: MAY 1 TO OCTOBER 15

= Allowed = Allowed but with restrictions = Prohibited

	WATER USE	1	2	3	4	RESTRICTION DETAILS
GOVERNMENTS/SCHOOLS/PARKS	Watering lawns and grass boulevards					**Stage 1**: One morning per week. Automatic watering from 4 am to 6 am. Manual watering from 6 am to 9 am
	Watering new lawns or lawns being treated for the European Chafer Beetle					**Stage 1**: Outside restricted lawn watering times if in compliance with a member jurisdiction permit. **Stage 2**: Member jurisdiction permit issued in Stage 1 remain in effect until permit expires. No new permits issued or renewed.
	Watering trees, shrubs, and flowers excluding edible plants					**Stages 1 & 2**: On any day from 4 am to 9 am if using a sprinkler, and on any day at any time if using a hand-held hose with automatic shut-off device, a soaker hose, water container, or drip irrigation. **Stage 3**: On any day at any time if using a hand-held hose with automatic shut-off device, water container or drip irrigation. Prohibited if using a sprinkler or soaker hose.
	Watering soil-based playing fields					**Stage 1**: On any day from 7 pm to 9 am except if watering newly over-seeded fields if in compliance with a member jurisdiction permit, or if operating under an approved member jurisdiction water management plan. **Stage 2**: No more than 4 days in a 7-day period from 7 pm to 9 am (same exceptions as in Stage 1). **Stage 3**: No more than 3 days in a 7-day period from 7 pm to 9 am (same exceptions as in Stage 1).
	Watering sand-based playing fields					**Stages 1 & 2**: On any day from 7 pm to 9 am except if watering newly over-seeded fields if in compliance with a member jurisdiction permit, or if operating under an approved member jurisdiction water management plan. **Stage 3**: No more than 5 days in a 7-day period from 7 pm to 9 am (same exceptions as in Stages 1 & 2).
	Flushing water mains					
	Operating water play parks					**Stages 2 & 3**: Prohibited except water play parks with user-activated switches.
	Topping up or filling aesthetic water features					
	Topping up or filling pools and hot tubs					**Stage 3**: Prohibited except with a permit to operate in accordance with health authorities having jurisdiction over pool and hot tub regulation.
	Washing vehicles and boats					**Stages 3 & 4**: Prohibited except to clean windows, lights, mirrors, licence plates, and boat engines for safety.

metrovancouver
SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION

The restrictions apply only to the use of GVWD drinking water and not to the use of rain water, grey water, any forms of recycled water, or water from sources outside the GVWD water system.

Metro Vancouver Water Use Restrictions from Metro Vancouver Drinking Water Conservation Plan