



# South East Kelowna Irrigation District

## WATER RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT

### Stage 2 Water Restrictions in Effect

**M**inistry of Environment officials forecast water supplies in the Okanagan Valley to be below normal for the second year in a row. The snow pack in local mountains has been below average all winter and the mild weather in January and February has greatly reduced the snow pack at the lower and mid-elevations.

Unfortunately, the poor supply outlook for this year is greatly affected by the shortages we experienced in 2009. The low runoff last spring combined with the dry summer of 2009 has left the District with very low reservoir levels going into this spring.

Consequently, the runoff we do get this year will have to be substantial to replenish our supplies. While there is always the possibility that spring rains will provide some relief, the Board of Trustees have wasted no time in announcing that Stage 2 water restrictions will be in effect once again in 2010 (see following stories on Pages 2 & 3).

## Notice of Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Landowners of the South East Kelowna Irrigation District will be held on Wednesday May 12, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the boardroom of the South East Kelowna Irrigation District, 3235 Gully Road, Kelowna, B.C.

### Items to be presented and approved at this meeting include:

- AGM minutes of May 13, 2009
- Trustees' Annual Report
- Manager's Annual Report
- Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2009
- 2010 Budget
- 2010 Trustee's Honorarium
- New Business

Copies of the financial statements will be mailed on request or may be picked up at the District office after April 30, 2010.

The terms of two Trustees expire in 2010. Nominations for the election of two Trustees for three-year terms will be accepted up to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 13, 2010.

**If an election is required, the date of the election will be Thursday, May 27, 2010, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.** An advance poll will be Thursday, May 20, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Darlene McKnight  
Secretary/Treasurer

## BOIL WATER NOTICE

### Spring Runoff

**S**pring runoff is now underway and the District issued a Precautionary Boil Water Notice (BWN) April 19th. The BWN was issued because the turbidity (cloudiness) in our water supply exceeded the

average (over a 24 hour period) reading of 5 NTUs.

Each year the District has turbidity problems associated with spring runoff. The problem is caused by high flows in Hydraulic Creek (where our intake is located) caused by the melting of snow below our reservoir. The melting snow causes the creek to rise and wash tiny particles of clay, silt, organic and inorganic matter, plankton, and other microscopic organisms into the District's intake. The smaller particles pass through our screens and are

disinfected with chlorine before entering the distribution system.

It is important to understand that turbidity is not the only factor that needs to be assessed to measure the health risk of a water supply. Other considerations include the presence of pathogens in the watershed and the effectiveness of the disinfection process in rendering pathogens harmless. Turbidity is an important parameter in drinking water because bacteria, viruses and parasites (pathogens) can attach themselves to the suspended particles and this can interfere with disinfection by shielding contaminants from the disinfectant.

As always, our water system operators are proactively increasing chlorine dosages ahead of rising turbidity to maintain adequate chlorine residual throughout the distribution system. Our customers are reminded that the Provincial Health Officer recommends that anyone with a compromised immune system should avoid drinking surface water that has not been filtered and this is particularly sound advice during this time of year.

The District has no control over the lower elevation runoff and this year it looks like those flows will likely peak in early May. The lower and mid-elevation snow pack this year is lower than normal so we expect our turbidity will drop below the 5 NTU level shortly. Additional public notifications will be issued to keep everyone up to date on our water quality (see Water Quality Information, page 3).



#### WATER SHORTAGE RUMOR

## For the Record

**T**he Board of Trustees and staff at SEKID are aware of a persistent rumor

circulating in the District for the past year or so that an operational error occurred in the spring of 2009 that was somehow responsible for last year's water shortage.

The District does not typically comment on rumors directly but, given the hardship experienced by everyone in the District because of the water shortages, we feel it

### Domestic Regulations – Stage 2 Water Restrictions

Due to the water supply outlook for 2010, the Board of Trustees of the South East Kelowna Irrigation District has determined that Stage 2 water use restrictions will be in effect in the 2010 season.

#### Domestic Watering Restrictions:

- 1) Irrigation is restricted to **two (2) days a week** using the last number in your house addresses as odd or even as follows:
  - **Odd** numbered units or street addresses are restricted to watering on **Tuesdays**, and **Saturdays**.
  - **Even** numbered units or street addresses are restricted to watering on **Wednesdays** and **Sundays**,

**Underground sprinkler systems** may only be operated on permitted watering days between the hours of **12:00 midnight to 6:00 AM** and **not to exceed 30 minutes per zone**. If you run underground sprinklers on your permitted watering day you may not run above ground sprinklers on that same day.

**Above ground sprinklers and watering by hose** is only allowed on permitted watering days between the hours of **6:00 AM and 10:00 AM** and **between 6:00 PM and Midnight**.

- 2) All **non-essential** watering is **prohibited** including:
  - Power washing or washing down of sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts;
  - Wash down of buildings or structures except for fire control or protection;
  - Water for dust control, flushing of roof gutters.
- 3) **Exceptions:**
  - Hand watering of vegetable gardens and potted plants is permitted any time.
  - Hand washing of cars, with bucket & hose with a nozzle to control water flow on watering day only.

These domestic regulations apply to all properties in the District watering landscaping **including rural properties with metered irrigation services**. Restrictions will be strictly enforced by District Staff and failure to comply is a violation of *Water Distribution Regulation Bylaw #607*. Violations will result in disconnection of water service and a \$50.00 reconnection charge for each violation. We appreciate all efforts by the community to work together to reduce consumption and to use water wisely.

is important to set the record straight: there was no water lost due to an operational error in 2009.

All upstream works were configured to divert water to storage well before the spring runoff began and all works were carefully monitored for natural hazards and tampering throughout the runoff period.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION

## Water Quality

**S** EKID regularly updates our web site at [www.sekid.ca](http://www.sekid.ca) with water quality

information and we have also implemented an email registration function at the Kelowna Joint Water Committee web site (KJWC).

Customers throughout the City of Kelowna can register online to receive water quality updates through email notification from any of the five major water utilities serving the city. That address is [www.kjwc.org](http://www.kjwc.org).

The KJWC has also implemented a call out program where customers can register to receive water quality information by phone. This service will initially be directed towards notifying public facilities (restaurants, daycare centres and public buildings), but will be available to individuals in the near future. Check in to [www.kjwc.org](http://www.kjwc.org) for updates on the availability of this service.

Finally, as always, feel free to pick up the phone and call the District office directly with any of your questions about water quality.

## Agricultural Regulations – Stage 2 Water Restrictions

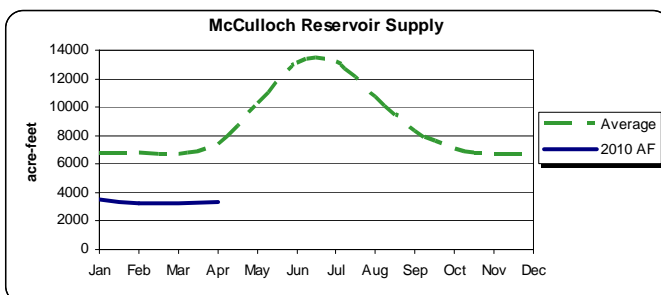
Due to a continuing shortage of available water supplies, the Board of Trustees has implemented reduced irrigation allotments for the 2010 irrigation season. The reduced allotment is 75% of the normal Drought Year Allotment. These restrictions affect all properties with metered irrigation services. The 2010 allotment notices were mailed to all affected properties in April. Please contact the District office if you require another copy of your 2010 allotment.

Effective immediately allotments will be 1.6875 acre feet per acre of water rights (549,871 US Gallons per acre). This is equivalent to 20.25 inches of water. Landowners are cautioned to manage water use carefully. The District will monitor water supply throughout the coming weeks and months and additional adjustments may be implemented if required.

The allotment notices also provide information regarding the maximum flow rate for each property. This flow rate (U.S. gallons per minute - USGPM) is based on the soil type and acres of water rights of the property. It is a violation of District Bylaws to exceed both the flow rate and allotment for your property.

It is every landowner's responsibility to monitor his or her own water use and stay within the allotment and flow rate presented in the allotment notice. Water Use Reports will be issued regularly throughout the irrigation season. Staff will carefully monitor and enforce all provisions of the District's *Irrigation Water Distribution and Regulations Bylaw #579*.

Water use in excess of the allotment is in violation of Bylaw #579. **A metered rate penalty will apply to excess water use and water service to the property will be discontinued once the allotment has been reached.** A copy of Bylaw #579 and additional information on the metering program is available on the District web site at [www.sekid.ca](http://www.sekid.ca).



McCulloch Reservoir April 1, 2010 at 24 % of capacity

#### ADMINISTRATION

## Domestic Service Audit Underway

**D**istrict staff has begun an audit of all properties in the District that might have unauthorized domestic units. Updating our records is important for a number of reasons.

A prime concern is making sure that all properties pay for the water services provided and are not subsidized by the vast majority of residents who pay their fair share. Another reason is to set the stage for water quality improvements. It is important to make sure that all domestic connections are identified so that

when the water quality improvement plan moves forward all residential units in the District will be transferred to the new drinking water supply.

Staff surveyed the District last summer and fall and developed a list of properties that required a more detailed review. Letters were then sent to those properties requesting a site visit for a detailed assessment. Several properties did not respond to the first letter and a second letter will be mailed shortly to those who have not responded. About two thirds of those properties reviewed did have unauthorized domestic units and they will be receiving a letter detailing our requirements later this spring.

Unauthorized residential units include suites, carriage houses and seasonal farm accommodations that have been converted to year round use. We urge any residents who are unsure if a unit on their property is in compliance with District Bylaws to contact the District office to have it checked out. We can quickly check the property in doubt, review our records and verify that all charges have been paid or advise if any charges are outstanding.

#### SENIOR GOVERNMENT FUNDING

## Water Quality Improvement Plan Update

**C**onsiderable resources have been devoted to moving ahead with our Water Quality Improvement Plan over the past six months. (For detailed information on the WQIP, refer to [www.sekid.ca](http://www.sekid.ca) or follow this link:

<http://sekid.ca/pdf/reports/Summary%20Report.pdf>).

The primary roadblock to moving ahead with the program is funding. The estimated cost of the Water Quality Improvement Plan is estimated at \$18 million. The District raised domestic tolls significantly last fall and a portion of those revenues will go into the WQIP Fund, a reserve established to fund the needed improvements. The District has also listed land for sale on Todd Road with proceeds slated for the WQIP Fund.

On the political front, we continue to lobby senior government for access to infrastructure grant funding. While local MLAs have been particularly receptive to our requests, we have been advised that it is unlikely there will be any significant infrastructure grant funding programs available in the near future. In the meantime, we will continue to work with the other Kelowna water suppliers to insure the long term strategic water servicing plan for Kelowna stays on track.

#### WATER SUPPLY

## Contingency Groundwater Supply

**L**ast fall, anticipating the possibility of water supply shortages once again this summer, the Board of Trustees commissioned Mould Engineering to undertake a Groundwater Contingency Supply Plan.

The contingency plan was recently completed and provides the information we require to supplement our water supply with groundwater from District wells on East Kelowna Road.

With distribution system improvements, these wells have the capacity to provide groundwater to the entire District during both the irrigation and non-irrigation season.

Last summer, in fact, over 530 acre-feet of groundwater was used to supplement our summer demand. The contingency plan provides recommendations on how to use even more groundwater for that purpose.

The plan also provides the information we need to supply water from these wells on a year-round basis.

We will use the wells again throughout the irrigation season to supplement our surface water supplies. If our surface water supplies become particularly stressed over the summer, the Contingency Supply Plan provides a strategy for improvements that would enable groundwater use throughout the non-irrigation season as well.

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