



# MEMORANDUM

File No: 5790.10.09

Date: March 1, 2024

**TO: Greater Vernon Advisory Committee**  
**FROM: Utilities Department**  
**SUBJECT: March 2024 Greater Vernon Water Supply Update**

## SUMMARY

Based on the Water Storage Triggers Assessment for Greater Vernon Water (GVW), the March 2024 water supply in **Stage 1** based on the February water storage levels and the forecasted moisture and weather predictions for March and April.

As there is currently no outdoor watering or agricultural irrigation at this time and freshet has not yet occurred, this Stage 1 mainly impacts operations and the variable Environmental Flow Need (EFN) requirements for Duteau Creek. Operations has been actively conserving water in the Duteau storage reservoirs by optimizing the use of Kalamalka Lake, drastically reducing operational flushing and preparing backup wells. In addition GVW is providing messaging to the public of possible risk of drought.

## TRIGGER ASSESSMENT

GVW uses the Water Shortage Management Plan (WSMP) to guide decisions about GVW water management. Staff monitor four (4) triggers to assess the water supply and drought conditions:

1. Reservoir Levels (Water Storage)
  - o **Duteau Reservoir** - Duteau storage is below average and within the Stage 1 restrictions zone (Figure 1). Stage 1 EFN flows and operational measures are currently being used to maintain storage levels and weather and freshet will be pivotal to determine the impact of staged restrictions during the irrigation season.
  - o **Kalamalka Lake** - January 2024 Kalamalka lake levels were below the average and provincial targets; however, recent levels have begun to increase due to precipitation in the area (Figure 2).
2. Current Moisture Conditions – The February snowpack measurements indicate a snow pack of 81% of normal in the South Thompson Basin (Duteau Source) and 86% of normal in the Okanagan Basin (Kal Source).
3. Forecast Weather Conditions – based on the Federal forecast, continue to indicate above normal temperatures from February to April with below normal precipitation, which could negatively impact water supply.
4. Customer Demand Forecast – Customer demand for February has been typical for this time of year and reflects indoor water use.

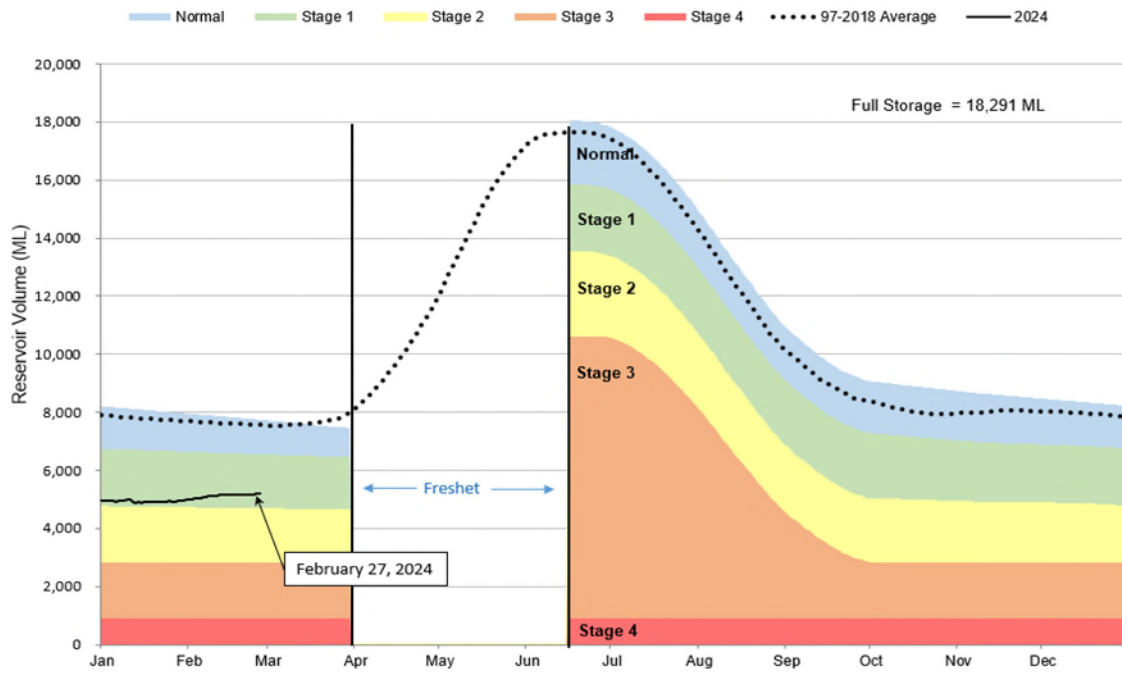


Figure 1: The Duteau reservoir levels in Megaliters (ML) to February 27, 2024.

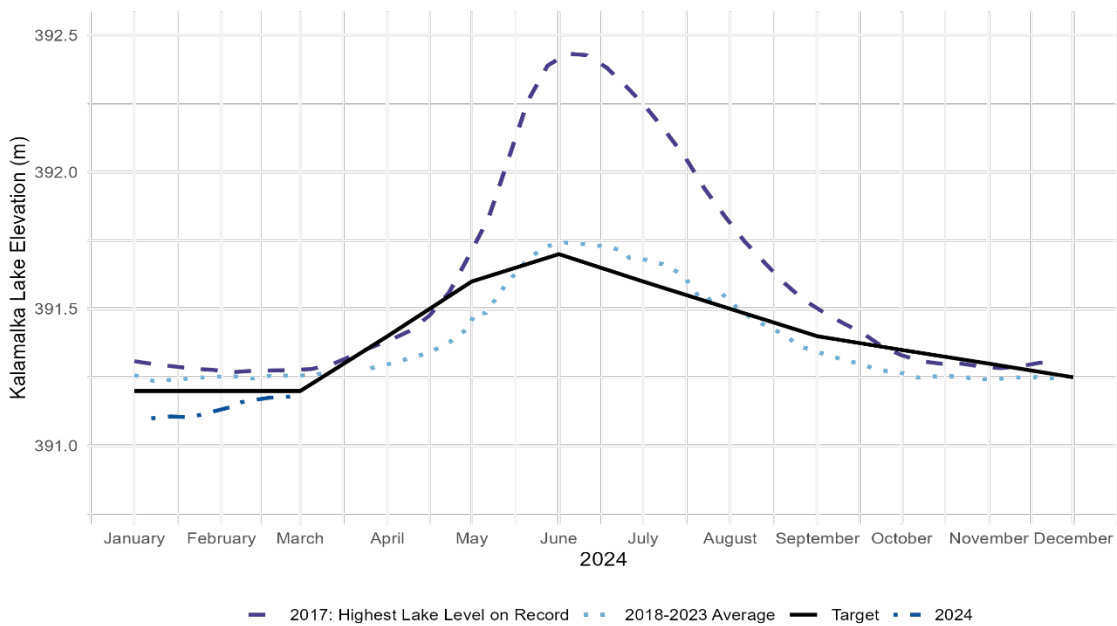
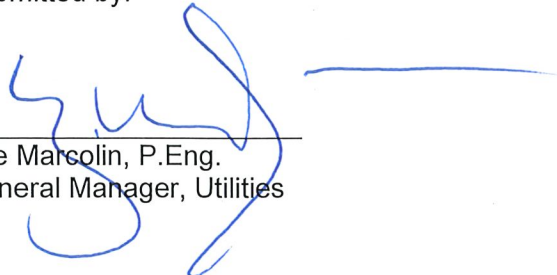


Figure 2: Kalamalka Lake elevation for 2024 compared to the 2018-2023 average and provincial targets.

For the GVW Water Shortage Management Plan and further information on the triggers and the water system can be found at [www.rdno.ca/restrictions](http://www.rdno.ca/restrictions).

Submitted by:



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