

# MEMORANDUM

**File No: 5790.10.09**  
**Date: April 3, 2024**

**TO: Greater Vernon Advisory Committee**

**FROM: Utilities Department**

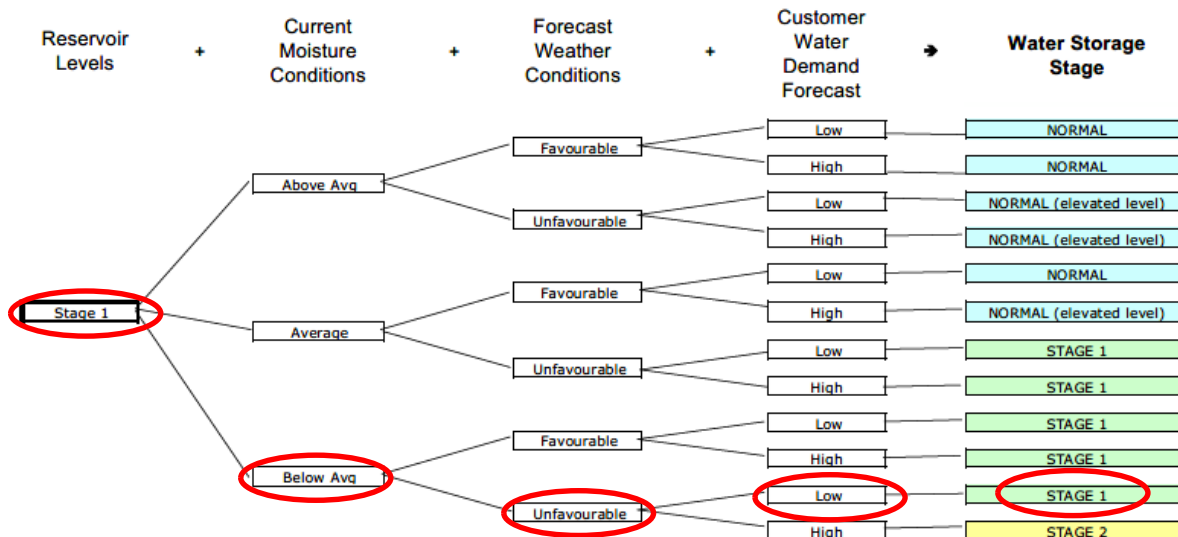
**SUBJECT: April 2024 Greater Vernon Water Supply Update**

## SUMMARY

Greater Vernon Water (GVW) is entering the freshet monitoring period for the reservoir storage, but based on the Water Storage Triggers Assessment, Greater Vernon Water (GVW) will remain in **Stage 1** with heightened messaging to customers of the risk of drought this summer.

As there is currently limited 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 Needs (EFN) requirements for Duteau Creek. Operations has been actively conserving water in the Duteau storage reservoirs by optimizing the use of Kalamalka Lake, reducing operational flushing and is preparing backup wells. In addition, GVW is working directly with larger irrigators who requested early turn on and are providing messaging to the public of possible risk of drought.

## DECISION TREE



## 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 has just recently entered the freshet monitoring period, but will remain within the Stage 1 level (Figure 1) which impacts EFN flows and operational measures. Weather in the next few months and the flows from freshet into the reservoirs will be pivotal to determine the impact of restrictions during the irrigation season.
  - o **Kalamalka Lake** - March 2024 Kalamalka lake levels remain below normal and provincial targets (Figure 2).
2. Current Moisture Conditions – The snowpack measurements indicate a snow pack of 71% of normal in the South Thompson Basin. This is consistent with the snowpack measurements completed by GVW staff in the Duteau watershed on April 2.
3. Forecast Weather Conditions – the Federal forecast continues to indicate above normal temperatures for March to April, with slightly below average precipitation.
4. Customer Demand Forecast – Customer demand for March has been typical for this time of year and if considered low, reflective of indoor water use.

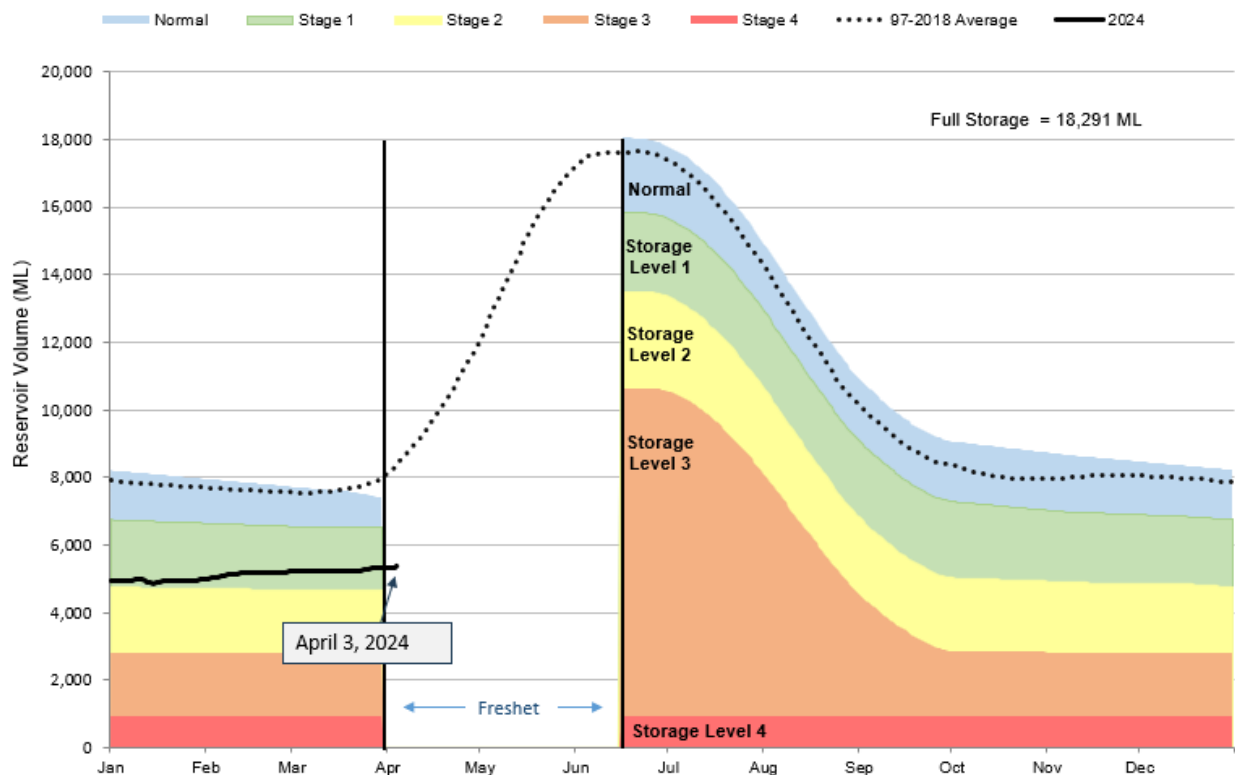


Figure 1: The Duteau reservoir levels in Megaliters (ML) to April 3, 2024.

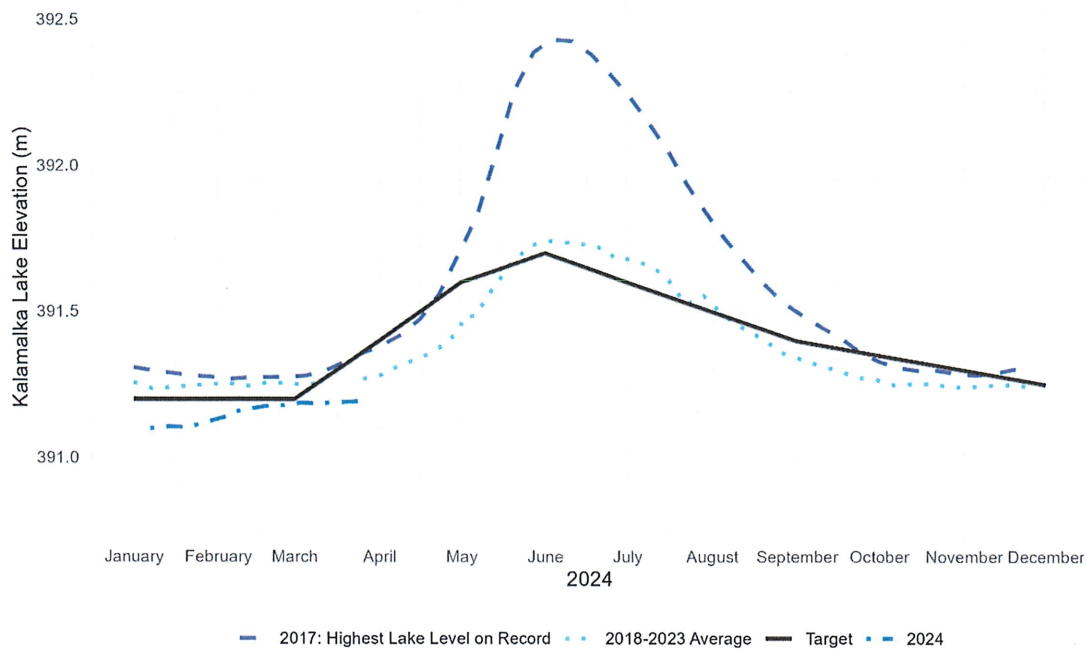


Figure 2: Kalamalka Lake elevation for 2024 compared to the 2018-2023 average and provincial targets.

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).

Reviewed & approved by:

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General Manager, Utilities