



REGIONAL
DISTRICT
NORTH
OKANAGAN

MEMORANDUM

File No: 5790.10.09.2026

Date: May 6, 2026

TO: Greater Vernon Advisory Committee

FROM: Utilities Department

SUBJECT: May 2026 Greater Vernon Water Supply Update

SUMMARY

Based on the Water Storage Triggers Assessment for May 2026 and as a precaution against higher drought levels this summer, **Stage 2 Water Use Restrictions** are being issued due to low water storage levels, low-trending water input into Greater Vernon Water (GVW) reservoirs, forecasted low water moisture and high temperature predictions for June and July. Detailed restrictions for each customer class are provided at in the [GVW Water Use and Regulation Bylaw](#). These restrictions have the overall goal of reducing user demand by 20% and all users are required to conserve and reduce water use.

These measures are necessary due to low snowpack this winter, which is not providing sufficient water input to the reservoirs, along with a forecast of low rainfall in the coming months. In addition, higher seasonal temperatures have resulted in increased customer use, already drawing on storage needed for summer dry periods. Under the GVW Water Shortage Management Plan, stronger restrictions are required now to protect water supplies through the summer and fall.

Stage 2 Water Use Restrictions are now in effect for all GVW customers, including properties in the City of Vernon, the District of Coldstream, and portions of the Township of Spallumcheen, Electoral Areas "B", "C", and "D".

Stage 2 Outdoor Watering Schedule

Customers watering day(s) are as follows:

- Odd-numbered addresses: Tuesday and/or Saturday
- Even-numbered addresses: Wednesday and/or Sunday
- No yard or garden watering between 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on any day

Hand watering with a watering can, or a hose with a spring-loaded nozzle, is permitted up to three (3) days per week, outside the 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. window. Additional restrictions for each sector can be viewed in the [GVW Water Use and Regulation Bylaw](#). These restrictions are enforceable and GVW staff will be monitoring customer use and providing notice and/or enforcement measures where required.

Operations staff have been actively conserving water and will stop all routine distribution flushing and maximize the use of the Kalamalka Lake Water Source within the distribution system where

MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES:
CITY OF ARMSTRONG
DISTRICT OF COLDSTREAM
CITY OF ENDERBY

VILLAGE OF LUMBY
TOWNSHIP OF SPALLUMCHEEN
CITY OF VERNON

ELECTORAL AREAS:
"B" – SWAN LAKE
"C" – B.X. DISTRICT
"D" – LUMBY (RURAL)

"E" – CHERRYVILLE
"F" – ENDERBY (RURAL)

feasible. Staff are meeting weekly to review storage levels and if sufficient rain occurs in June and storage recovers, staged restrictions could be lessened.

A Drought Stakeholder Working Group meeting will be scheduled early June and current conditions communicated through regular email updates. GVW continues targeted conservation messaging and is initiating a broader public campaign.

TRIGGER ASSESSMENT

GVW uses the Water Shortage Management Plan (WSMP) decision tree to guide decisions about GVW water management. Staff monitor four (4) triggers to assess the water supply and drought conditions (Figure 1):

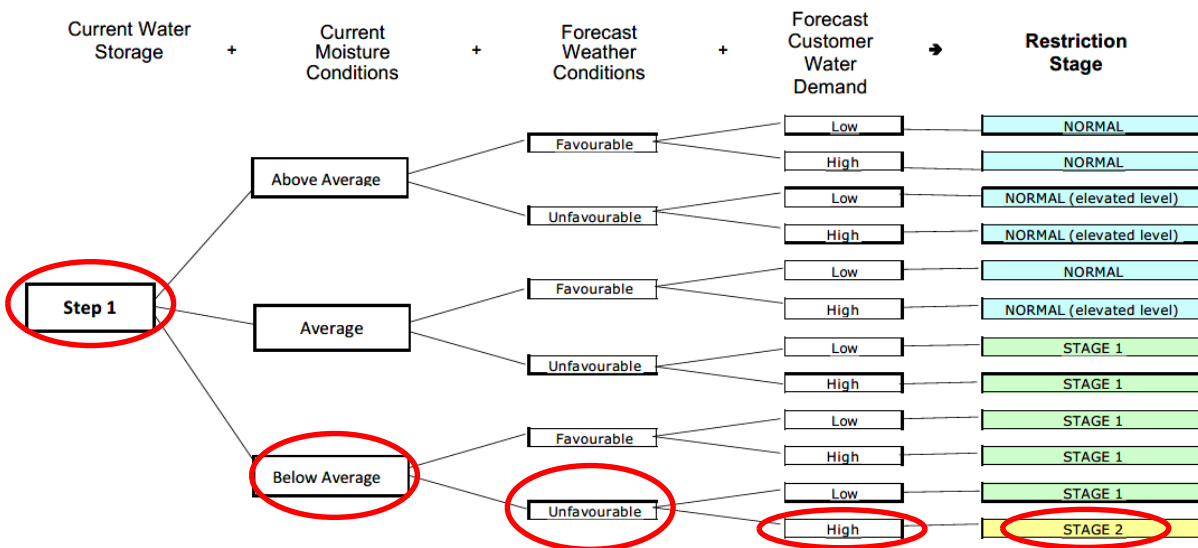


Figure 1 – Water Shortage Management Plan Decision Tree

1. Reservoir Levels (Water Storage)

- **Duteau Reservoir** - Duteau is now within the freshet monitoring period (Figure 2); however, this period represents what has occurred historically and does not represent 2026, where the watersheds providing GVW water have seen low snowpack at higher elevations with very little snow at lower elevations. The Environmental Flow Needs are being met and low melt has finished with minimal high elevation snow remaining and reservoir inflows are slowing down substantially.
- **Kalamalka Lake** - Kalamalka lake levels were below the average and provincial targets and trends are showing minimal recovery (Figure 3).

2. Current Moisture Conditions – Based on the Snow Survey and Water Supply Bulletin, the April snowpack is 85% of normal in the South Thompson Basin (Duteau Source) but only 58% of normal in the Okanagan Basin (Kal Source). The May watershed inspection for the GVW snow water equivalent (SWE) indicated no snow at the elevation of the three (3) Snow Survey sites in the Aberdeen Plateau, although there is some snow in shaded areas at higher elevations in the watershed.

Precipitation at the “Vernon Auto” site has been significantly below normal since October last year, with only March showing above average levels. April returned to below-average conditions (Figure 4).

3. Forecast Weather Conditions – The Federal forecast indicates an increased probability of below-normal precipitation from May to June in the Okanagan region, although their forecast skill is low, indicating uncertainty. Above-average temperatures are expected

during the same period, with a forecast skill of 71% and an 80–89% probability of above-normal temperatures.

- Customer Demand Forecast – Customer demand for the beginning of April was typical for this time of year, reflecting indoor water use patterns along with the start-up of irrigation systems (Figure 5); however, the last week of April and first week of May saw unseasonably high temperatures resulting in higher customer demand. As spring temperatures increase, customer demand is expected to be above average, resulting in a less favourable demand forecast.

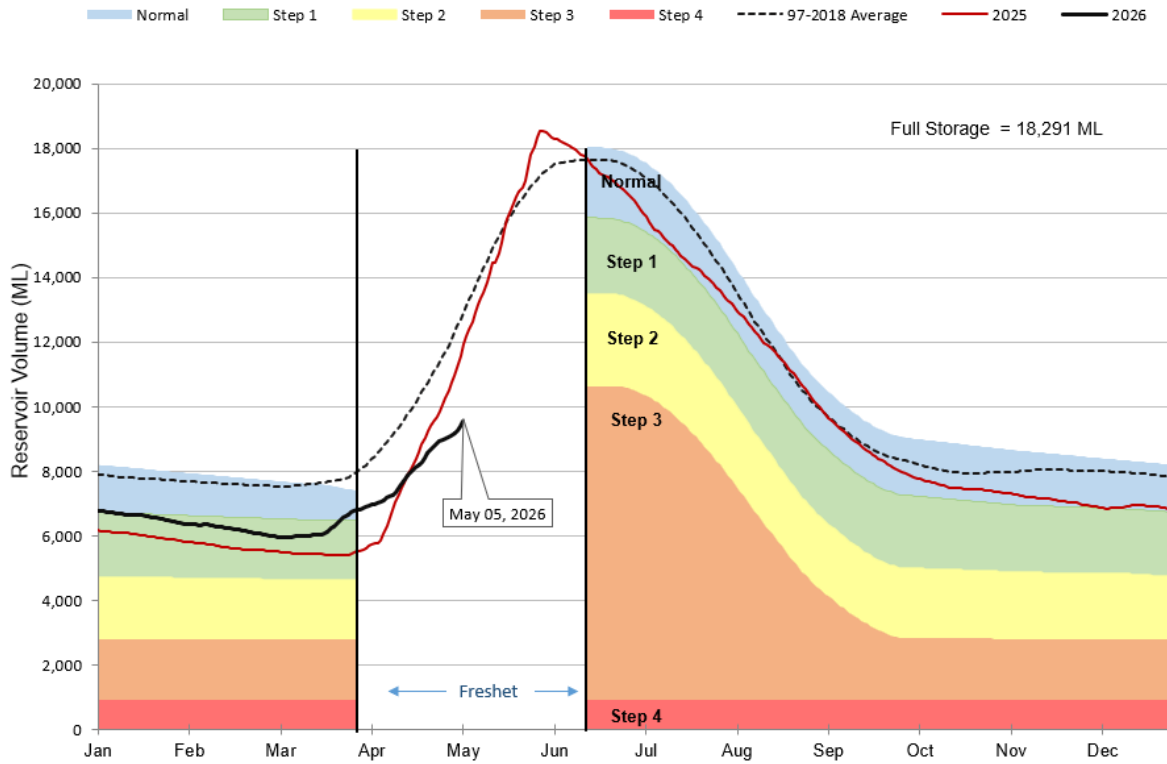


Figure 2: The Duteau reservoir levels in Megaliters (ML)

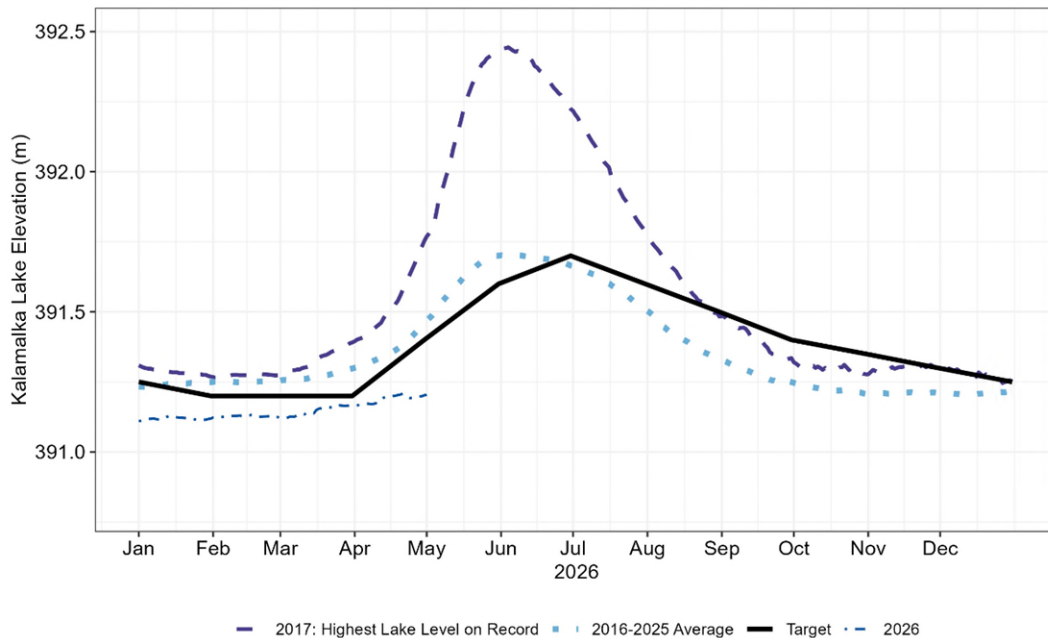


Figure 3: Kalamalka Lake elevation for 2026 compared to the 2018-2025 average and provincial targets

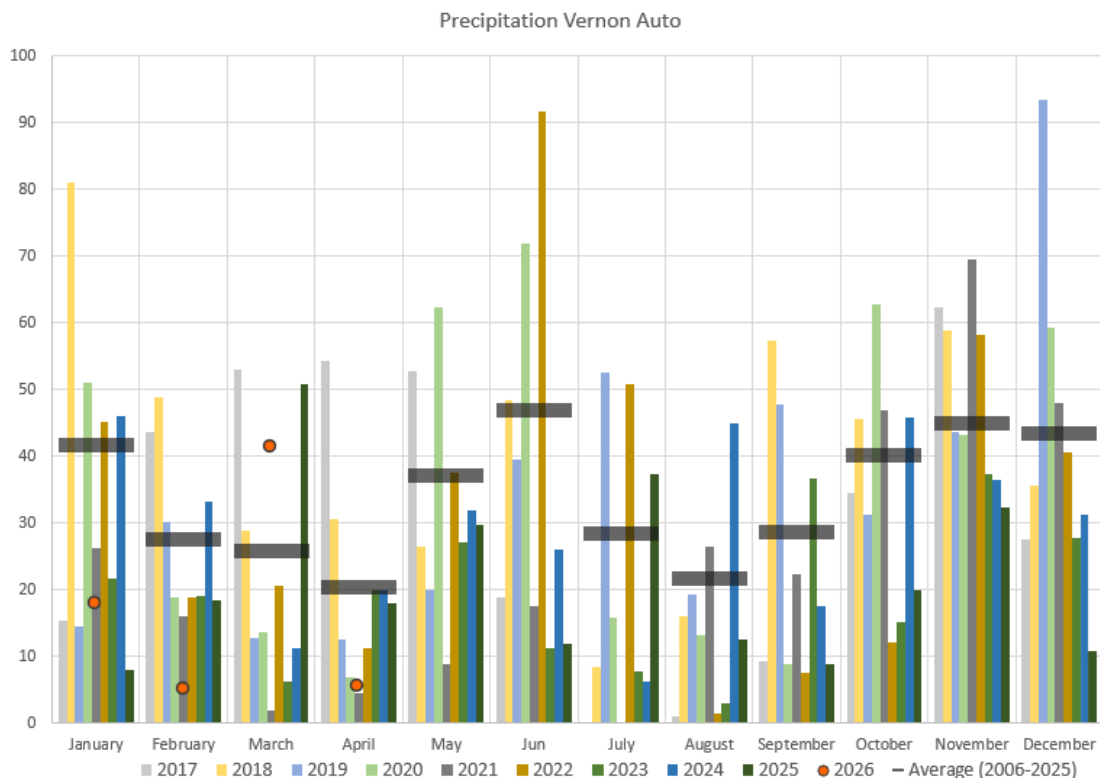


Figure 4: 2017 – 2026 Comparison of monthly precipitation at Vernon Auto

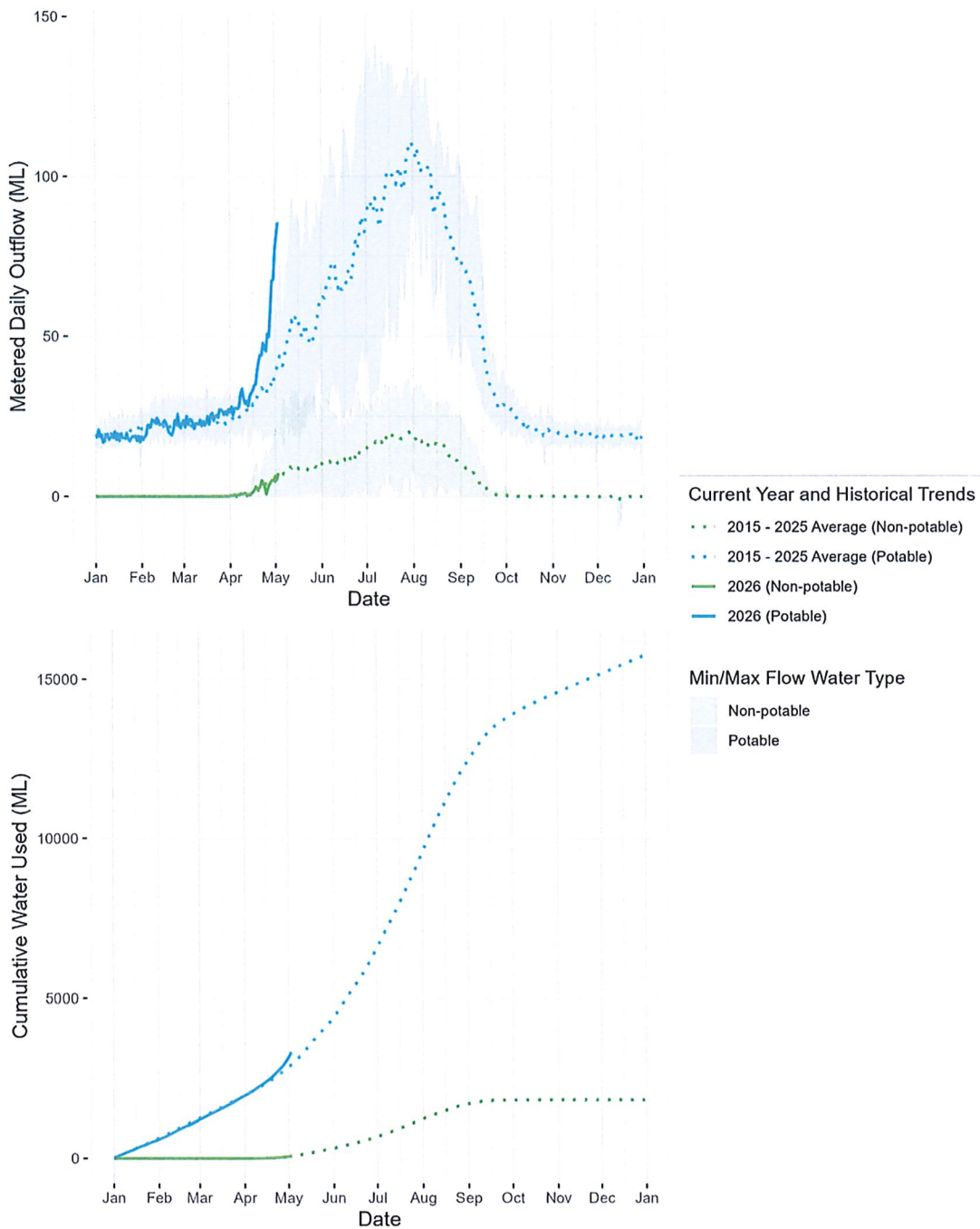


Figure 5: Potable and Non-Potable customer demand trends

The GVW Water Shortage Management Plan and further information on the triggers and the water system can be found at www.rdno.ca/restrictions.

Submitted by:

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