



<i>COUNCIL AGENDA</i>	
Date: <u>June 22, 2026</u>	Item: <u>10.</u>



10.

**MEMORANDUM**

Date: June 8, 2026  
 To: Council  
 From: Fatemeh Mansoori, Senior Manager, Engineering Utilities Planning, Design, and Project Delivery  
 Subject: **Proposed Revised Drinking Water Conservation Plan Bylaw No. 4975, 2018 Amendment Bylaw 5468, 2026**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Proposed “Revised Drinking Water Conservation Plan Bylaw No. 4975, 2018 Amendment Bylaw 5468, 2026” be read a first, second and third time.

The purpose of this memorandum is to recommend that Council consider adoption of Proposed Revised Drinking Water Conservation Plan Bylaw No. 4975, 2018, Amendment Bylaw No. 5468, 2026, attached as Appendix A.

The proposed amendment bylaw is intended to update the District’s Revised Drinking Water Conservation Plan Bylaw to:

- clarify the authority for implementing water restriction;
- establish clearly defined exemptions for water use related to municipal operations or for the purposes of public health and safety;
- address the current inconsistency with Special Lawn Watering Permits; and
- address additional minor housekeeping amendments.

These amendments respond to legal advice regarding delegation and exemption provisions in the current bylaw, while supporting continued alignment with regional water conservation objectives.

**Financial Implications:**

There are no direct financial implications associated with the proposed bylaw amendment. Implementation, administration, communications, and enforcement activities can be accommodated within existing departmental operating budgets.

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Additional costs may arise if prolonged drought conditions require extended enforcement or enhanced public communication.

## **Analysis:**

### **Background**

Metro Vancouver's Drinking Water Conservation Plan (DWCP) provides the regional framework for seasonal and drought-related water use restrictions. Stage 1 restrictions are normally in effect from May 1st to October 15th each year. In 2026, Metro Vancouver moved directly to Stage 2 restrictions effective May 1st and Stage 3 restrictions effective June 8th. This rapid escalation was prompted by dry conditions, low snowpack, and reduced system flexibility while one of the two main North Shore water crossings is offline for construction of the Stanley Park Water Supply Tunnel. In the process of implementing these expedited restrictions, vulnerabilities were identified in the District's Revised Drinking Water Conservation Plan Bylaw No.4975, 2018. A legal review of the bylaw confirmed areas where amendments are required.

### **Proposed Bylaw Amendments**

The first proposed amendment would clarify the District's authority enact and enforce water restrictions as described in the bylaw. In the current bylaw, the Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD) Commissioner has authority to activate and deactivate water restrictions. Legal advice obtained by the District identified risk in that structure because it grants decision-making authority to an external decision-maker rather than the municipality. The proposed amendment would instead assign that authority to the District's Engineer (being the Director of Engineering and Transportation Services as defined in the bylaw), with the bylaw setting out considerations to inform the decision, including:

- Metro Vancouver announcements;
- water conservation objectives;
- reliable local water supply;
- fire protection requirements; and
- impacts on residents, businesses, and essential community activities.

This proposed amendment would also eliminate several defined terms from the bylaw to reflect the shift in authority from the GVWD Commissioner to the municipality.

The second proposed amendment would clarify exemptions for specified water uses where the DWCP and current bylaw provide limited guidance. The proposed amendment would define "Municipal Operations" and set out specific exemptions for activities carried out by or on behalf of the District where use is reasonably required for

operation, maintenance, or protection of municipal infrastructure, facilities, or services. Examples of these activities include:

- dust control, road and trench compaction;
- tree planting;
- landscaping irrigation associated with municipal works or environmental compensation;
- outdoor tracks where watering is needed for safety; and
- concrete curing.

This approach would allow essential municipal and construction-related activities to continue responsibly while maintaining clear bylaw rules and overall water conservation.

The third proposed amendment would address an inconsistency with Special Lawn Watering Permits. These permits allow watering for new lawn, sod, turf or seed, and for application of nematodes to treat European Chafer Beetle. The current bylaw allows permits during Stage 1 and Stage 2, while the DWCP and Schedule A of the current bylaw state that no permits will be issued during Stage 2, 3, or 4. The proposed amendment would resolve this inconsistency by authorizing permits up to Stage 2 only, with no new permits issued once Stage 3 or higher restrictions are in effect. Given the direct move to Stage 2 on May 1, 2026, clarifying this provision would improve administrative certainty and alignment between the bylaw and public communications.

Additional minor housekeeping amendments are also proposed to improve clarity and consistency throughout the bylaw.

## **Enforcement**

The District continues to enforce water use restrictions through bylaw compliance supported by public education. Under the District's bylaw, contraventions of Stage 2 restrictions are subject to a \$200 penalty and contraventions of Stage 3 restrictions are subject to a \$500 penalty. The proposed amendments would strengthen administration and enforcement by clarifying activation authority and specific exemptions.

## **Sustainability**

The bylaw encourages water conservation and assists in the management of local municipal water resources. Many District residents understand the need for water conservation, especially during dry summer months when water consumption more than doubles and less precipitation limits the replenishment of source water reservoirs.

## Public Engagement and Outreach

District staff are coordinating with Metro Vancouver and the other North Shore municipalities to ensure consistent education and communication of the water restrictions. Water restrictions have been communicated across all relevant departments and operational adjustments are on-going.

## Recommended Option

THAT the Proposed “Revised Drinking Water Conservation Plan Bylaw No. 4975, 2018 Amendment Bylaw 5468, 2026” be read a first, second and third time.

Author:   
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Fatemeh Mansoori, Senior Manager, Engineering Utilities Planning,  
Design, and Project Delivery

## Appendices:

Appendix A: Proposed Revised Drinking Water Conservation Plan Bylaw No. 4975,  
2018, Amendment Bylaw 5468, 2026



District of West Vancouver

**Revised Drinking Water Conservation Plan  
Bylaw No. 4975, 2018,  
Amendment Bylaw No. 5468, 2026**

Effective Date:

District of West Vancouver

**Revised Drinking Water Conservation Plan  
Bylaw No. 4975, 2018,  
Amendment Bylaw No. 5468, 2026**

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District of West Vancouver

# **Revised Drinking Water Conservation Plan Bylaw No. 4975, 2018, Amendment Bylaw No. 5468, 2026**

A bylaw to amend Revised Drinking Water Conservation Plan Bylaw No. 4975,  
2018.

WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the District of West Vancouver deems it expedient to amend Revised Drinking Water Conservation Plan Bylaw No. 4975, 2018 to provide for the better administration of water conservation measures in the municipality;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of The Corporation of the District of West Vancouver enacts as follows:

## **Part 1 Citation**

- 1.1 This bylaw may be cited as Revised Drinking Water Conservation Plan Bylaw No. 4975, 2018, Amendment Bylaw No. 5468, 2026.

## **Part 2 Severability**

- 2.1 If a portion of this bylaw is held invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, then the invalid portion must be severed and the remainder of this bylaw is deemed to have been adopted without the severed section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, clause or phrase.

## Part 3 Amendments

- 3.1 Revised Drinking Water Conservation Plan Bylaw No. 4975, 2018 is amended as set out in sections 3.2 to 3.16.
- 3.2 Section 4.1 of the Bylaw is amended as follows:
- In the definition of “governments/schools/parks”, by deleting the words “member jurisdiction” and replacing them with the words “local government”.
  - In the definition of “Water Management Plan” or “Water Use Plan”, by deleting the words “during the different stages of the DWCP” and replacing them with the words “during the different restriction stages”.
  - By inserting the following definition after the definition of “manual watering”:  
  
“municipal operations” means activities carried out by or on behalf of the District where water use is reasonably required for the operation, maintenance or protection of municipal infrastructure, facilities or services.”
  - In the definition of “public announcement”, by adding the following after subparagraph (ii):  
  
“(iii) another means of public communication utilized by the District, including the District web site, its social media accounts, or an electronic newsletter;”
  - By deleting each of the following definitions in its entirety, and re-numbering the remaining definitions accordingly: “Board”, “DWCP”, “GVWD”, “GVWD Commissioner”, “member jurisdiction”, “Metro Vancouver”.
- 3.3 The heading of Part 5 of the Bylaw is deleted and replaced with the following, and the Table of Contents is revised accordingly:  
  
“Part 5 Authorities, Declaration and Announcement of Restriction Stages”.
- 3.4 Section 5.1 of the Bylaw is deleted and replaced with the following:
- “5.1 Stage 1 Restrictions come into effect automatically on May 1 every year, unless the Engineer rescinds the Stage 1 Restrictions or

activates a different restriction stage by way of a public announcement.”

3.5 Section 5.2 of the Bylaw is deleted and replaced with the following:

“5.2 The Engineer may activate and announce a restriction stage or rescind a restriction stage, and in so doing shall consider the following:

- (a) any communication or notice from the Greater Vancouver Water District regarding the activation or rescission of a water use restriction stage by the Greater Vancouver Water District;
- (b) the promotion of drinking water conservation;
- (c) the need to ensure a continuous and reliable drinking water supply in the District, including maintaining adequate pressure and supply for fire protection;
- (d) the anticipated impacts on residents, businesses and community activities.”

3.6 Section 5.3 of the Bylaw is deleted and replaced with the following:

“5.3 For greater certainty, a communication or notice from the Greater Vancouver Water District referred to in section 5.2(a) is a consideration only and does not require the Engineer to activate or rescind a restriction stage unless the Engineer determines that doing so is appropriate having regard to all of the considerations set out in section 5.2.”

3.7 Section 5.4 of the Bylaw is deleted and replaced with the following:

“5.4 The Engineer shall make a public announcement to communicate the activation of any restriction stage, other than the automatic activation of Stage 1 Restrictions on May 1 in each year, and the

restriction stage so activated shall come into force on the date identified in the public announcement.”

- 3.8 Section 5.6 of the Bylaw is amended by deleting the words “GVWD Commissioner” and replacing them with the word “Engineer”.
- 3.9 Section 8.5 of the Bylaw is amended by deleting the words “section 7.2” and replacing them with the words “section 8.2”.
- 3.10 Section 9.1 of the Bylaw is amended by deleting the word “him” and replacing it with the words “the Engineer”.
- 3.11 The heading of Part 10 of the Bylaw is deleted and replaced with the following, and the Table of Contents is revised accordingly:  
  
“Part 10 General Exemption for Municipal Operations”.
- 3.12 Section 10.1 of the Bylaw is deleted and replaced with the following:  
  
“10.1 Notwithstanding the activation of any stage of water restrictions, the District may use water and is exempt from the water restrictions applicable to that stage, where use of water is for municipal operations or is for purposes related to the health and safety of the public.”
- 3.13 In Schedule A of the Bylaw, the table identified as “Stage 2 Water Restrictions” is amended by deleting the sentence “No new permits shall be issued or renewed” from the “Restriction” column opposite the reference to the water use “Watering new lawns or lawns being treated for the European Chafer Beetle” in each of the Residential, Non-Residential, and Governments/Schools/Parks portions of the table.
- 3.14 Schedule A of the Bylaw is amended by deleting the words “member jurisdiction” wherever they appear.
- 3.15 Schedule A of the Bylaw is amended in the third paragraph under the heading “Stage 4 Water Restrictions” by deleting the words “Metro Vancouver” and replacing them with the words “the Engineer or Greater Vancouver Water District”.
- 3.16 Schedule C of the Bylaw is amended by deleting the sentence “More information regarding watering restrictions can be found in Drinking Water

Conservation Plan Bylaw No. 4975, 2018, Amendment Bylaw No. 5183,  
2022”, and replacing it with the following sentence:

“More information regarding watering restrictions can be found in  
Drinking Water Conservation Plan Bylaw No. 4975, 2018, as  
amended from time to time.”

READ A FIRST TIME on [Date]

READ A SECOND TIME on [Date]

READ A THIRD TIME on [Date]

ADOPTED by the Council on [Date].

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Mayor

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Corporate Officer

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