



Tetrahedron Park and Sunshine Coast Water Supply

BC Parks is holding a consultation process to gauge public opinion about a proposal to declassify Tetrahedron Provincial Park. They have not included an option to retain the park and water protections as they are, nor adhered to consultation requirements for park boundary adjustments.

Over the last past 30 years the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) has routinely ignored concerns about future potable water supplies and deferred decision making about new water sources. The SCRD has failed to

- Recognize that Chapman lake alone cannot supply all “future” water supply needs.
- Account for global climate change in its supply scenarios.
- Develop adequate storage capacity to see residents through seasonal droughts.
- Address water constraints in response to development applications and referrals.
- Implement reasonable outdoor water use stages during increasing drought seasons.
- Acknowledge or deal with poor water management and planning.

Instead, the SCRD wants the BC government to remove land from Tetrahedron Provincial Park or declassify the whole park to undertake the Chapman Water Expansion Project, which

- Involves draining Chapman Lake from the currently allowed 3m depth to 8m.
- Puts the source area ecosystem at risk.
- Would cost \$5 million.
- Is a “temporary measure.”
- Was not evaluated in the SCRD’s 2013 Comprehensive Water Plan.
- Has never undergone any real public scrutiny.

Instead of exploring viable water supply options outside the park, the SCRD is pursuing an outdated and shortsighted course of action that makes ongoing protection of the Tetrahedron Park and the ecosystems that supply 90% of our drinking water ever more important.

VIALE OPTIONS EXIST OUTSIDE THE PARK.

- Sechelt Mayor Bruce Milne and Elphinstone Director Lorne Lewis oppose removal of land from the park. Instead they want the SCRD to **build a reservoir in Sechelt by 2019.**
- Water metering is proceeding throughout the SCRD distribution area, creating **immediate water savings**, which will undoubtedly increase. (Gibsons reports 50% savings since 2008).
- The Town of Gibsons has now committed to stop buying bulk water from the SCRD, this will **add at least 6% to the current SCRD supply by 2019.**
- A 2017 report to the SCRD indicates **good potential for expanded supply from aquifers** and the SCRD is set to begin an exploratory drilling program this summer.
- **Other source options** include Clowhom Lake and/or diversions from local watersheds.
- **Other conservations options** include rain water harvesting and infrastructure upgrades.

The Sunshine Coast Conservation Association (SCCA) does not contest the SCRD’s use of the siphon under emergency Stage 4 conditions. Our priority recommendation is that the SCRD pursues water storage and diversified water sourcing that would limit the need for future use of the siphon.

If the BC Government removes or de-classifies land from a Class A Provincial Park on the Sunshine Coast in this way, it could set a precedent affecting protected areas throughout BC.

Founders of the Tetrahedron Park and the SCCA have been at the forefront of local drinking water protection for over 30 years and we are now calling on citizens of the Sunshine Coast, water protectors and Parks defenders across BC to

Help Protect our Park and our Water Supply!

contact us at info@thescca.ca