June 16, 2026 Reference No. CA0052397.4146-001-L-Rev0

Laura Beckett, Municipal Planner, Deputy Approving Officer
District of Highlands
1980 Millstream Road
Victoria, BC V9B 6H1

RESULTS OF 2025 GROUNDWATER LEVEL MONITORING PROGRAM, DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS, BC

Dear Ms. Beckett,

As requested by the District of Highlands (the District), WSP Canada Inc. (WSP) conducted a groundwater level monitoring program in the District of Highlands, BC (the Highlands) for 2025. WSP conducted the groundwater level monitoring program in accordance with our proposal titled "Workplan and Cost Estimate for 2025 Groundwater Level Monitoring Program, District of Highlands, BC" (WSP Reference No. 2025CA394146-001-P-Rev0) and dated March 19, 2025.

Our letter should be interpreted and used in accordance with the limitations and considerations set out in WSP's *Study Limitations*, provided at the end of this letter.

1.0 BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

The Highlands is one of the 13-member municipalities of the Capital Regional District (CRD), encompassing approximately 37 km^2 and located northwest of Victoria, BC. The majority of the residential population of 2,482 obtains potable water from private, individual water wells (Statistics Canada 2021). Sewage servicing within the Highlands is primarily by individual septic systems.

Commercial groundwater use is limited to the southern portion of the Highlands. The Hanington Estates subdivision, located along the southern portion of the Highlands, obtains water from a water system ("Hanington Estates Water System") that is supplied by two communal supply wells. Irrigation water for the Bear Mountain Golf Course (Bear Mountain) is sourced from groundwater wells located within the Highlands. Some businesses within the Millstream Industrial Park, located in the Highlands and Langford, had historically used groundwater for commercial purposes; however, the CRD municipal Regional Water Supply System was extended into this area and is understood to represent the primary water supply for businesses in the industrial park.

As per the BC *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA), groundwater uses for purposes other than domestic supply must apply for and obtain a groundwater license. Groundwater licensing, which is administered by the BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS), establishes rights to groundwater and specifies how much water one can legally use. As of April 2026, one groundwater licence (License No. 501806) was documented on

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the provincial Water Rights Databases for the Highlands (Government of British Columbia 2026). This Conditional Water Licence was issued to Ecoasis Developments LLP for groundwater use in the southern portion of the Highlands for irrigation and land improvements at the Bear Mountain Golf Course; further details are provided in Section 3.4.

1.1 Aquifer Description

Groundwater supplies within the Highlands are derived primarily from drilled wells completed in the Wark-Colquitz Aquifer. This bedrock aquifer is identified as Aquifer No. 680 by the Province of BC (the Province) and is categorized as class IB under the BC Aquifer Classification System, indicating high demand relative to a moderate aquifer productivity and moderate vulnerability of the aquifer to contamination from surface sources. A copy of the Aquifer Factsheet for Aquifer No. 680 is presented in Attachment 1.

1.2 Groundwater Monitoring and Mapping Programs

On behalf of the District, WSP (formerly Golder Associates Ltd.; work conducted prior to 2021 herein referred to as Golder) initiated a groundwater level monitoring program in the Highlands in 2009 in support of the District's Groundwater Protection Study (Golder 2009). A total of ten monitoring locations were selected and labeled as DOH-01 through DOH-10 (Figure 1). At some locations, two wells were selected for monitoring, with an unused well being used for water level monitoring and a well that was equipped with a pump used for collecting groundwater quality samples. At these locations, the wells were labeled with an A or B (e.g., DOH-02A and DOH-02B).

The water level information from the monitoring program was used to assess seasonal groundwater level variations and, in 2012, to refine a numerical groundwater model that Golder developed, calibrated and used to conduct water balance analyses. At the completion of the Groundwater Protection Study, Golder recommended that the District continue to monitor groundwater conditions at select locations in the Highlands to assess seasonal and long-term trends. If trends were to be observed, the results would provide the basis for guiding implementation of management strategies including conservation and groundwater protection measures, and public education efforts. The monitoring well locations were selected in discussion with the District's Groundwater Task Force to support ongoing monitoring at locations across the Highlands in areas of groundwater recharge and discharge, in a cost-effective manner; the six locations selected are listed in Table 1 and discussed below. Further details are provided in the Golder (2012) report titled "Phase 3: Groundwater Protection Study District of Highlands, District of Highlands Victoria, BC" (Report No. 0714140014-501-R-Rev2-3000) and dated December 18, 2012.

The groundwater monitoring program has been continued since 2009 to the present. Six locations were selected for long-term monitoring across the Highlands to collect continuous water level data at strategic locations. As of the end of 2025, pressure transducers were deployed in six monitoring wells, with one additional pressure transducer (a "barologger") deployed to monitor changes in barometric (i.e., atmospheric) pressure. The locations of monitoring wells DOH-01, DOH-02A, DOH-03, DOH-04B, DOH-07B and DOH-09A are presented on attached Figure 1. Monitoring Well DOH-02A had been removed from the monitoring program in February 2018 at the request of the property owner at that time; however, the well was reintroduced to the monitoring program in March 2024. A summary of the total depths of the Highlands monitoring wells and the Well Tag Numbers (WTNs) that have been assigned by the BC Ministry of Environment and Parks (BC ENV) is provided in Table 1, below.

Table 1: Summary of District of Highlands Long-Term Monitoring Wells

District of Highlands Monitoring Well	Total Depth m bgs (ft bgs)[a]	Well Tag Number (WTN)[b]
DOH-01	152 (499)	79405
DOH-02A	56 (185)	85719
DOH-03	91 (300)	79581
DOH-04B	53 (175)	48812
DOH-07B	152 (500)	69716
DOH-09A	46 (150)	79583

Notes: a. m bgs = metres below ground surface; ft bgs = feet below ground surface
b. Well Tag Number assigned by the Province and reported on Groundwater Wells and Aquifers (WELLS) database

Monitoring wells DOH-02A, DOH-07B and DOH-09A are unused wells that are not equipped with pumps (i.e., are not in operation). The water levels in these wells are generally considered to be representative of static groundwater levels in the aquifer in the vicinity of the wells. However, groundwater flow within a bedrock aquifer is variable and through discrete fractures. Therefore, water levels at a given location can be influenced by pumping of wells in the area.

DOH-03 and DOH-04B are equipped with pumps and operated as supply wells for non-potable uses (i.e., not for drinking water). Although DOH-01 is an unused well, the water level in this well is influenced by pumping in an adjacent well. Water levels in DOH-01, DOH-03 and DOH-4B are not considered representative of the water levels in the surrounding aquifer during periods of pumping, but the high-water levels are interpreted to represent static (i.e., non-pumping) periods and can provide a basis to assess groundwater conditions in the areas of these wells.

The CRD obtained a Certificate of Compliance (CoC) from BC ENV in July 2025 for the Millstream Meadows site located in the southern portion of the Highlands at 1965 Millstream Road and adjacent to the District's office property at 1980 Millstream Road. This had involved drilling and installation of monitoring wells to assess groundwater conditions; one of the monitoring wells, multi-level monitoring well MW19-96, was drilled at the District's office property, approximately 60 m northeast from the District office. In 2021, the CRD provided the District with water level data that were collected in 2020 from MW19-96.

As part of the 2021 annual groundwater monitoring program, WSP also conducted a review of additional mapping work that had been done by GW Solutions Inc. (GW Solutions). Based on the results of that review, WSP provided recommendations for potential strategic refinements to the Highlands monitoring program, including consideration of additional monitoring locations. It was noted that this could include engaging with other stakeholders such as the Province and CRD, the Hanington Estates Water System and owners of private wells on residential properties; further details are provided in the 2021 annual monitoring report (WSP 2022). From 2021 to 2025, WSP provided technical services to the District to support expansion of the groundwater level monitoring program. As presented in WSP (2026) letter report titled "Summary of Activities for Monitoring Program Expansion Planning, District of Highlands, BC" (Reference No. CA0021658.2507-002-L-Rev0), re-establishment of the climate stations in the Highlands was identified as the top priority for program expansion, followed by strategic expansion of the Highlands well network, if one or more unused wells could be identified in the central and developed areas of the municipality.

1.3 Objective

The objective of the 2025 groundwater level monitoring program was to continue to implement the Highlands groundwater monitoring program and to compile and analyse data from the Highlands and stakeholder monitoring programs to assess regional groundwater conditions and potential long-term trends.

2.0 METHODS

2.1 Groundwater Level Monitoring

The transducers that are installed in the Highlands monitoring wells, including the barologger that is deployed at monitoring location DOH-01, are programmed to collect data every hour. Under the current program, WSP downloaded pressure transducer data and collected a manual depth-to-water measurement at each of the active monitoring locations in the Highlands on June 11, 2025; September 15, 2025; and January 14 and 16, 2026.

2.2 Data Compilation and Analysis

In addition to the District's monitoring program, WSP also obtained data from other stakeholder monitoring programs in the Highlands including the following:

- University of Victoria (UVic) School-Based Weather Station Network: data available on-line for UVic weather stations, located at various areas of the Highlands, as described below.
- BC ENV Provincial Groundwater Observation Well Network (PGOWN): water level data available on-line from BC ENV Well No. 372 (WTN 83045), located in the western portion of the Highlands.
- Hanington Estates Water System: flow data available from Island Flow Control Water Solutions Ltd. (IFCWS) for the Hanington Estates Water System, in the southern portion of the Highlands.

The locations of the monitoring wells and weather stations from the various stakeholder monitoring programs are presented on attached Figure 1.

WSP compiled the raw pressure data from the Highlands monitoring wells and corrected the data for variations in barometric pressure, as recorded by the barologger, to calculate depth to groundwater levels for each Highlands monitoring well. WSP also checked the barometrically corrected transducer data with the manual depth to water measurements that were collected during each monitoring event. As discussed in Section 1.2, water levels in the Highlands monitoring wells are influenced either directly by periodic pumping (i.e., DOH-03 and DOH-4B) or, given the bedrock setting, pumping by adjacent wells, particularly at DOH-01. The water level data are estimated to generally range from plus or minus 0.02 to 0.05 m relative to manual measurements for DOH-4B, DOH-07B and DOH-09A, to up to approximately 0.10 to 0.15 m for DOH-03 and DOH-01, respectively. This reported variability for DOH-03 and DOH-01 reflects the influence of pumping at the times of data collection, as described above. This level of precision is considered appropriate for a regional water monitoring program that assesses seasonal patterns and long-term trends.

WSP also compiled water level data available from BC ENV Well No. 372 and precipitation data from the UVic weather stations that have been analysed during previous years. Limited precipitation data were available for some of the weather stations for periods that extended from a few days to several months; however, the data are considered sufficient for assessing general precipitation patterns. Similar to recent annual monitoring programs, the majority of the UVic weather stations within the Highlands were not consistently operational in 2025. Therefore, WSP compiled precipitation data from the Calle Revelle weather station, as this was the only station in the Highlands with a complete dataset in 2025. When other UVic weather stations had been operational, precipitation data had been analysed as follows:

- Northern Highlands: Water level data for DOH-07B were compared to precipitation data for the Cal Revelle Nature Sanctuary Weather Station, located approximately 20 m north from DOH-7B and at a reported elevation of 221 metres above sea level (masl).
- Southern Highlands: Water level data for DOH-01 and DOH-03 had previously been compared to precipitation data for the District of Highlands Office Weather Station, adjacent to DOH-03, when the station was operational from January 2012 to January 2016 and July 2019 to September 2019. For other periods, precipitation data were used from other active stations as follows: Millstream Elementary School Weather Station from February 2016 to July 2019 and September 2019 to December 2021; and the Lakewood Elementary School Station from January 2022 to December 2024. The Millstream Elementary School and Lakewood Elementary School stations are located approximately 2.1 km southeast and 1.8 km south of the District of Highlands Office station, respectively (Figure 1). The elevations at the Millstream Elementary School station (80 masl) and Lakewood Elementary School Station (88 masl) are lower than the District of Highlands Office (104 masl).
- Western Highlands: For the periods January 2012 to February 2017 and January 2021 to December 2023, water level data for DOH-02A, DOH-04B and BC ENV Well No. 372 were compared to precipitation data from the West Highlands District Firehall weather station, located approximately 200 m northwest from DOH-04B and at an elevation of 154 masl.
- Eastern Highlands: Water level data for DOH-09A had been compared to precipitation data for the East Highlands District Firehall weather station (elevation of 101 masl) when data were consistently available during the following periods: January 2012 to May 2014, January 2019 to May 2022 and November 2022 to March 2024.

Data from the Highlands and stakeholder monitoring programs were plotted, and the results analysed to assess seasonal and long-term trends. WSP also reviewed flow data for the Hanington Estates Water System, as provided by IFCWS.

3.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 District of Highlands Monitoring Program

Figure 2 through 7 present detailed water level data for monitoring wells DOH-01, DOH-02A, DOH-03, DOH-04B, DOH-07B and DOH-09A for the period from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2025, together with daily precipitation data from the Cal Revelle Nature Sanctuary weather station. The precipitation data are provided to illustrate the relationship between precipitation and groundwater levels. Although it is expected that there is some

variability in precipitation patterns across the Highlands, the precipitation data presented on Figures 2 through 7 are considered suitable for the purposes of assessing general groundwater level patterns and their relationship to precipitation. Furthermore, groundwater recharge into the bedrock aquifer is interpreted to be, in part, controlled by the properties of the bedrock and not necessarily the intensity of specific precipitation events. Therefore, it is anticipated that minor changes in precipitation in different areas of the Highlands would not necessarily be reflected in significant variations in regional groundwater level conditions.

In 2025, the water levels that were recorded in the majority of the Highlands monitoring wells were consistent with seasonal precipitation patterns that were observed in previous years. Groundwater elevations were highest in the wet winter months of December to April, declining to a seasonal low during the dry summer period from May to September before increasing in response to precipitation and groundwater recharge from late October to December. Seasonal responses in 2025 ranged from approximately 4.4 m in DOH-03 to 19.8 m in DOH-02A. As discussed above, the water level in DOH-01 is inferred to be influenced by pumping of an adjacent well, resulting in isolated periods of drawdown, with the water level appearing to fluctuate by approximately 7 to 8 m in the summer of 2025; however, the seasonal response of the static water level in DOH-01 (i.e., high water level when the well is inferred to be recovering) is estimated to be in the range of 1.5 to 2.0 m.

In 2025, the total annual precipitation recorded at the Cal Revelle Nature Sanctuary weather station was 1,073 mm. This value is approximately in the middle of the range of values from previous years in the Highlands monitoring program (i.e., since 2009) when annual precipitation reported for this weather station has ranged from 720 mm in 2020 to 1,483 mm in 2021. In 2025, precipitation during the dry season from May to September at the Cal Revelle station was moderate, at a value of 132.2 mm. In previous monitoring years, precipitation reported during these summer months has ranged from 80.3 mm in 2018 to 317.8 mm in 2013. Consistent with the precipitation patterns, the water levels in the Highlands monitoring wells were generally similar those typically reported in previous monitoring years, as discussed below.

Southern Highlands

As discussed in Section 1.2, the water level in monitoring well DOH-01 is influenced by pumping in one or more nearby wells. The inferred static groundwater level of approximately 12.3 metres below the top of the casing (mbtoc) that was measured in DOH-01 late in the summer of 2025 was similar to values reported for most of the previous monitoring years since 2016, and slightly lower than those prior to 2016 (Figure 2). The lowest isolated (i.e., pumping induced) water level of approximately 18.4 mbtoc that was recorded for DOH-01 in July 2025 was within range of previous years and higher than depths that were as low as 25.9 mbtoc during the summers of 2012, 2016 and 2017; this level of 25.9 mbtoc was the level at which the pressure transducer was set, and the water level may have declined below this level during isolated pumping events. The seasonal high water level of approximately 9.4 mbtoc that was recorded at DOH-01 late in December of 2025 was within the range of those in recent monitoring years following a seasonal high of approximately 8.6 mbtoc that was observed in 2012 (Figure 2). The water level may increase into 2026, as it has early in some previous years, and on-going monitoring will provide on-going data to assess whether seasonal low and high water levels reflect a long-term trend or variability.

The seasonal low static water level of approximately 7.2 mbtoc that was measured in DOH-03 in September 2025 was relatively higher compared to the values of approximately 7.7 to 7.4 mbtoc reported in 2014 and 2021, respectively. The 2025 seasonal low static water level was, however, similar to the 2024 value of 7.3 mbtoc. Isolated water level measurements that were lower than this range are inferred to reflect isolated pumping of this well to supply the District office (Figure 3). The seasonal high water level of approximately 3.4 mbtoc that was reported in December 2025 was similar to previous monitoring years with values ranging from 5.2 in November 2018 to 3.0 in November 2021.

A new transducer was installed in DOH-03 in September 2024. In 2024, there was an error in the calculation of the depth to transducer after installation of the new transducer in September, which resulted in incorrect depth to groundwater calculations from September to December of 2024 and reported by WSP (2025); however, these errors were minor and did not affect the overall interpretation of conditions for DOH-03. For this 2025 report, the depth to groundwater calculations were corrected for September to December 2024. In 2024, it was reported that the water level in DOH-03 did not exhibit short duration responses to precipitation events in the fall of 2024; however, when the data for 2024 were corrected, a seasonal recharge of the water level was observed in 2024.

Western Highlands

As presented on Figure 4, following the reintroduction of DOH-02A to the Highlands monitoring program in March 2024, the water level in the well followed a pattern similar to what was observed previously; however, the seasonal low water level of 33.6 mbtoc that was observed in September 2025 was relatively low compared to values of 27.7 to 31.7 mbtoc that were observed in previous monitoring years. The high water levels that were observed to be 13.9 mbtoc in late March 2025 and 14.2 mbtoc in late December of 2025, respectively, were similar relative to the high levels of 14.0 and 13.0 mbtoc that were observed in 2013 and 2014, respectively. On-going monitoring will enable assessment of the seasonal low water levels in this well and a potential long-term trend.

For DOH-04B, the seasonal low static water level of approximately 8.2 mbtoc that was recorded in September 2025 is in the upper range of previous values that have been reported to range from 6.6 to 9.4 mbtoc in 2019 and 2012, respectively (Figure 5). The seasonal high water levels in this well have generally been consistent over the duration of the Highlands monitoring program. The value of 1.8 mbtoc is similar to previous years when values have ranged from 2.3 mbtoc in 2012 to 1.8 mbtoc in 2021.

Northern Highlands

The transducer in DOH-07B failed in 2025 and data were not available from March 28, 2026 to June 11, 2026 when the transducer was replaced. The seasonal low water level in DOH-07B, was 11.9 mbtoc in October 2025 (Figure 6). This is within the range of previous years when it ranged from 10.0 mbtoc in 2013 to 12.2 mbtoc in 2016. Similar to previous years, the water level in DOH-07B increased in response to seasonal recharge in the fall of 2025. The water level of 5.9 mbtoc that was observed in December 2025 was in the upper range of the previous seasonal high values of 5.5 mbtoc (2013) to 5.9 mbtoc (2018). The water level in DOH-07B may continue to increase into the wet season (i.e., into early 2026).

Eastern Highlands

The seasonal low water level of 4.7 mbtoc in DOH-09A in 2025 was similar relative to previous years that have ranged from 4.4 to 5.2 mbtoc in 2018 and 2012, respectively (Figure 7). In December 2025, the seasonal high water level was 0.5 m above the former top of the well casing of DOH-09A, prior to the casing for this well being extended by approximately 1.24 m above the former top of casing in October 2011. This measurement is similar to the seasonal high water levels from previous monitoring years that have ranged from approximately 0.0 mbtoc in 2013 and 2017 to 0.5 m above the former top of the casing in 2020 and 2021.

3.2 BC Ministry of Environment and Parks Observation Well

As presented on the Aquifer Factsheet presented in Attachment 1, based on the water level data from BC ENV Well No. 372, the Province has categorized the groundwater levels in Aquifer No. 680 as “Stable”.

Water level data for BC ENV Well No. 372 are plotted with precipitation data on Figure 8. The battery in the pressure transducer deployed in BC ENV Well No. 372 was reported to have failed on August 10, 2025 and the pressure transducer was replaced in January 2026. Therefore, there are no data available for the period of August 11, 2025 to December 31, 2025. The water level pattern observed in the available data for BC ENV Well No. 372 continued to be generally consistent with those observed in the Highlands monitoring wells, declining through the spring and summer months.

As presented on Figure 8, the water level in BC ENV Well No. 372 began increasing in late October 2024 in response to seasonal precipitation and reached a seasonal high water level of 42.3 mbtoc in March 2025. The lowest measured water level of 60.2 mbtoc that was reported for BC ENV Well No. 372 in August 2025 was similar to those reported in mid-August of previous years, when it ranged from 59.7 mbtoc in 2024 and 2023 to 58.0 mbtoc in 2013. There was a continuing trend in declining water level noted in August 2025, similar to previous years; however, data were not available for the remainder of 2025 to assess the seasonal low water level.

WSP notes that periods of consistent low water levels that were reported in the dry seasons of 2015, 2016 and 2017 are inferred to reflect periods when the water level dropped below the pressure transducer that was deployed in the well. Therefore, the low water levels in monitoring years prior to 2018 were lower than the levels plotted on Figure 8 and may have been similar to those reported from 2018 onwards.

3.3 Hanington Estates Water System

The water supply for the Hanington Estates Water System is sourced from two groundwater supply wells. Well 409 (WTN 85183) is operated as the primary water supply for the Hanington System and Well 500 (WTN 85184) is operated periodically as a backup supply. During the 377-day period from February 18, 2025 to March 2, 2026, the total flows from Wells 409 and 500 were reported to be 21,182 cubic metres (m^3) and 7,510 m^3, respectively, for a combined flow of 28,693 m^3. The corresponding average daily water use of 76.1 m^3/day is within the range of values reported for years prior to 2024. The average daily value of 151.3 m^3/day that was estimated for 2024 was relatively high compared to previous values that have ranged from approximately 67.6 m^3/day in 2019 to 107.7 m^3/day in 2023. WSP understands that leakage in the Hanington Estates Water System was detected and repaired early in 2025, consistent with the lower average daily consumption values reported from February 2025 onwards.

IFCWS also provided flow monitoring data for the overall water system. Although considered to be less accurate than the flow data for the individual wells (Well 409 and Well 500), the data for the water system suggest that approximately 42% of the annual use in 2025 occurred from May to September, when irrigation and other outdoor water use is inferred to be higher.

As discussed above, the population in the Hanington Estates subdivision is reported to have remained at 200 residents in 2025, the same value since full buildout of the development in 2017[1]. Based on this information, the average per capita water use for the Hanington Estates water system was calculated to be approximately 381 litres per person per day (L/p/day) for the period from February 18, 2025 to March 2, 2026. This estimated average per capita water use is within the previously reported values that have ranged from 338 L/p/day to 538 L/p/day in 2019 and 2023, respectively.

Consistent with previous years, water level data were not provided for Well 409 and Well 500.

3.4 Bear Mountain Monitoring Program

As discussed in Section 1.2, Conditional Water Licence No. 501806 was issued to Ecoasis for irrigation and land improvements at Bear Mountain. A copy of the Conditional Water Licence and supporting documentation that is publicly available on the provincial Water Rights Database[2] is provided in Attachment 2. The conditional licence was issued on June 23, 2023 for industrial (lawn, fairway and garden) and land improvement purposes. The conditional licence indicates that the maximum annual quantity of water that can be diverted is 243,180 m^3/year for industrial purposes and 36,520 m^3/year for land improvement purposes. The authorized works include the wells with WTNs 79523, 81690 and 95749 (Bear Mountain Irrigation Wells 405, 407 and 411; shown on Figure 1).

In previous years, Bear Mountain had retained a professional hydrogeologist to conduct groundwater level and flow monitoring for the irrigation wells (Bear Mountain Wells 405, 407 and 411) and monitoring wells (Bear Mountain Wells 400 and 412) at the golf course. The locations of these wells are presented on Figure 1. Annual reports that documented the results had been made available to the District since the Highlands monitoring program began in 2009, with the most recent Bear Mountain report being provided for 2022. In previous years, WSP reviewed the Bear Mountain reports and documented the results in the annual reports for the Highlands monitoring program.

An annual groundwater monitoring report for the Bear Mountain was not provided to the District for 2023, 2024 or 2025.

[1] Population information, as provided by the District of Highlands in file “Estd Pop_Hanington Creek Estates_2013-2025.docx”, that is based on Occupancy Permits, Stats Canada 2011, 2016, and 2021 Census data and Building Official’s observations.

[2] https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/water-licensing-rights/water-licences-approvals/water-rights-databases

4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of the 2025 Highlands groundwater monitoring program, it is concluded that:

- In 2025, groundwater levels in the Highlands monitoring wells were generally consistent with the seasonal patterns and generally within the range of what has been reported for previous monitoring years.
- The limited data available for DOH-02A since the well was reintroduced to the Highlands monitoring program in March 2024 suggest that the dry season water level was relatively low compared to years when it was previously monitored (i.e., prior to 2017). On-going monitoring will provide the basis to assess conditions at this location moving forward.
- The average water use for the Hanington Estates Water System was estimated to be approximately 76.1 m^3/day for the period February 18, 2025 to March 2, 2026. This is within the range of values reported for years prior to 2024. WSP understands that leakage in the Hanington Estates Water System was detected and repaired early in 2025, consistent with the lower average daily consumption values reported from February 2025 onwards.
- The corresponding per capita water use for the Hanington Estates Water System was estimated to be 381 L/p/d in 2025. This value is within the range of values of 338 to 538 L/p/d that were calculated for 2019 and 2023, respectively. The per capita water use was lower than the value of 756.7 L/p/d that was reported in 2024 and inferred to reflect leakage that was detected and repaired in early 2025.
- A 2025 annual groundwater monitoring report for the Bear Mountain Golf Course was not available for review and consideration in this report.

WSP provides the following recommendations:

- The Highlands groundwater monitoring program, including review of stakeholder programs, should continue in 2026 to monitor and document groundwater conditions across the Highlands.
- WSP also recommends that the District continue to engage with partners and consider potential opportunities to collaborate and share resources to achieve similar objectives in a cost-effective manner. As outlined by WSP (2026), activities for monitoring program expansion should be prioritized as follows:
  - The District could engage with partners to re-establish the UVic Weather Station Network climate stations in the District that have not been consistently operated in recent years. Funds and personnel are required to replace and maintain climate station equipment, as well as to collect and manage data. Roles, responsibilities and costs for equipment and operations should be developed in discussion with partners.
  - If one or more suitable wells (i.e., unused, on publicly accessible property) are identified, the District could consider strategic expansion of the Highlands monitoring well network in the central and developed areas where there currently are no monitoring wells.

- The District could also consider exploring other options to potentially obtain groundwater level data from partners, including the Hanington Estates Water System, the Province (groundwater data from licenced groundwater users) and/or commercial and industrial properties in the southern portion of the Highalnds.
- The District could engage with the Province to assess the possibility of establishing one or more hydrometric stations in, or downstream from, the Highlands to inform groundwater-surface water interaction, potential effects of climate change and a broader understanding of water resources in the Highlands.
- As a lessor priority, the District could consider options to obtain groundwater flow monitoring and/or water metering data to develop a refined understanding of groundwater use. Options may include data from the Province regarding groundwater users, commercial and industrial properties, and/or implementing a pilot program with volunteer residents. Costs for equipment, installation and monitoring, as well as data privacy and representativeness would need to be considered.

5.0 CLOSURE

We trust the above information meets your current needs. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

WSP Canada Inc.



2026-06-16

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AU/MB/keg

WSP Canada Inc.
Engineers & Geoscientists BC
Permit #1000200

Attachments: Figures 1 to 8
Attachment 1 – Aquifer Factsheet: Aquifer 680 Wark-Colquitz
Attachment 2 – Conditional Groundwater Licence for Bear Mountain Golf Course

https://wsponlinecan.sharepoint.com/sites/ca-ca0052397.4146/shared documents/06. deliverables/03_issued/ca0052397.4146-001-l-rev0/ca0052397.4146-001-l-rev0-2025 doh report-16jun_26.docx

6.0 REFERENCES

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WSP. 2026. Summary of Activities for Monitoring Program Expansion Planning, District of Highlands, BC. Reference No. CA0021658.2507-002-L-Rev0. February 24, 2026.

7.0 STUDY LIMITATIONS

WSP Canada Inc. (WSP) has prepared this letter in a manner consistent with that level of care and skill ordinarily exercised by members of the engineering and geoscience professions currently practicing in British Columbia, subject to the time limits and physical constraints applicable to this letter. No other warranty, express or implied is made.

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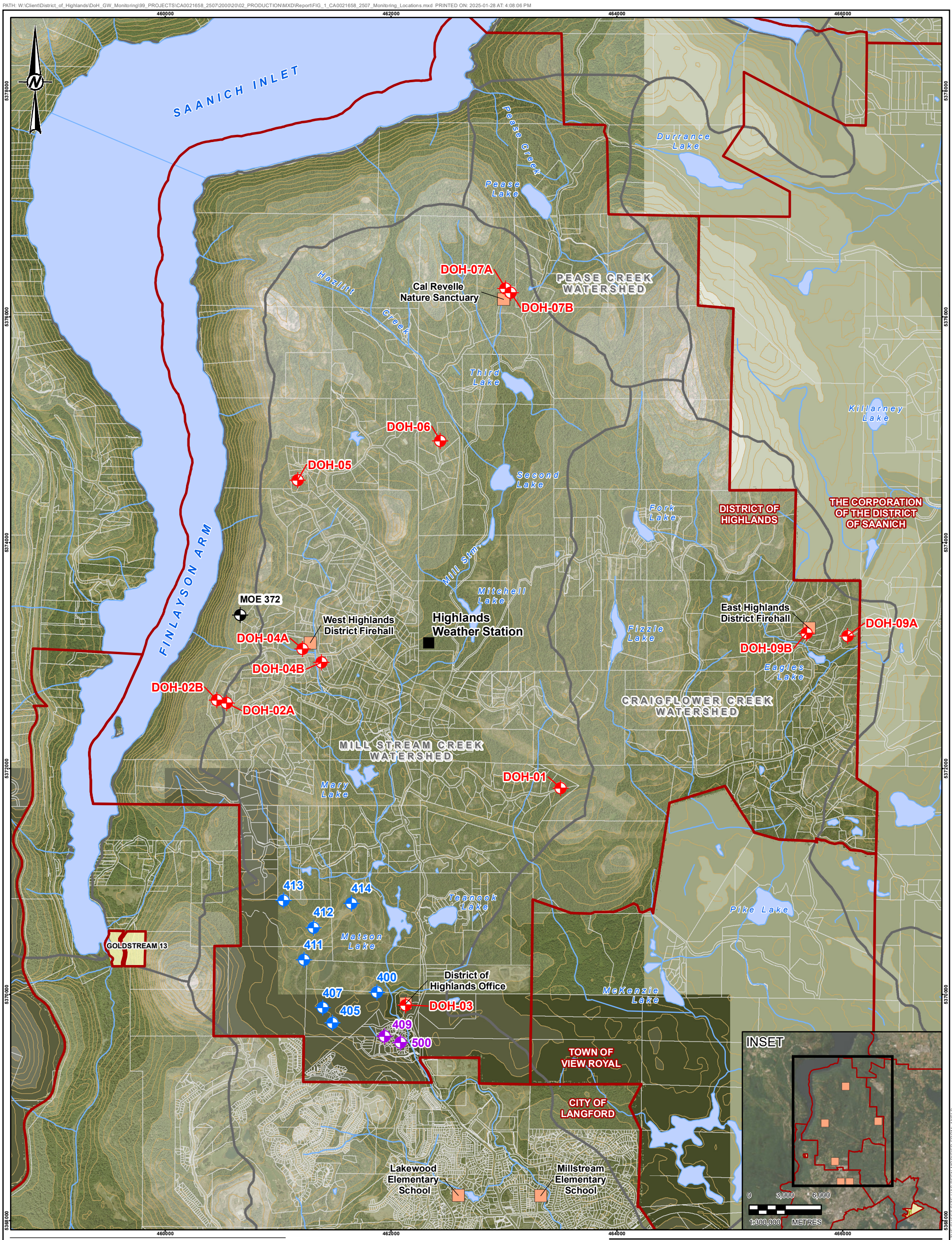
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PATH: W:\Client\District_of_Highlands\DoH_GW_Monitoring\99_PROJECTS\CA0021658_2507\2000\20\02_PRODUCTION\MXD\Report\FIG_1_CA0021658_2507_Monitoring_Locations.mxd PRINTED ON: 2025-01-28 AT: 4:08:06 PM



LEGEND

- District of Highlands Monitoring Well Location
- Hanington Creek Estates Well
- Bear Mountain Well
- Ministry of Environment Observation Well No. 372
- Environment Canada Weather Station
- University of Victoria Weather Station
- Contour (20m Interval)
- Watercourse
- Waterbody
- Parcel Fabric
- Major Watershed Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- Indian Reserve

Elevation - metres above sea level (masl)

- 0 - 100
- 101 - 200
- 201 - 300
- 301 - 400
- 401 - 500

0 640 1,280

1:32,000 METRES

REFERENCES

1. DATA PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND AND BC ILMB.
2. WEATHER STATIONS OBTAINED FROM ENVIRONMENT CANADA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA SCHOOL-BASED WEATHER STATION NETWORK.
3. PARCEL FABRIC, MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY, INDIAN RESERVE, WATERBODY AND WATERCOURSE DATA CONTAINS INFORMATION LICENSED UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT LICENSE – BRITISH COLUMBIA.
4. IMAGERY COPYRIGHT © 20230214 ESRI AND ITS LICENSORS. SOURCE: MAXAR. USED UNDER LICENSE, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED..

COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 UTM ZONE 10N

CLIENT
DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS

PROJECT
GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAM
DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS, BC

TITLE
MONITORING LOCATIONS

CONSULTANT

wsp

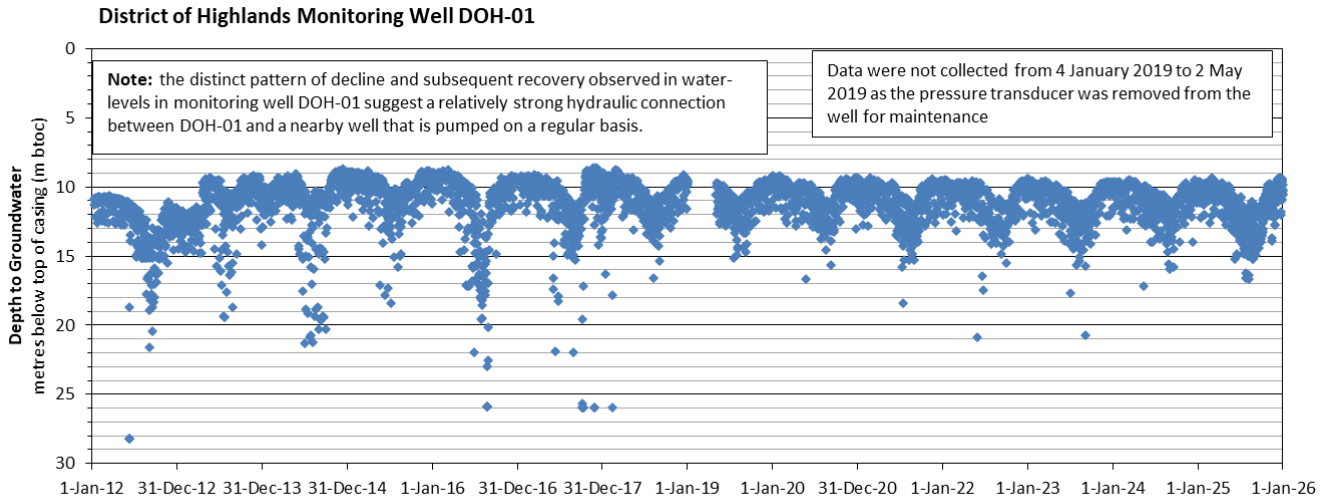
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DESIGNED	AU
PREPARED	LH
REVIEWED	AU
APPROVED	MAB

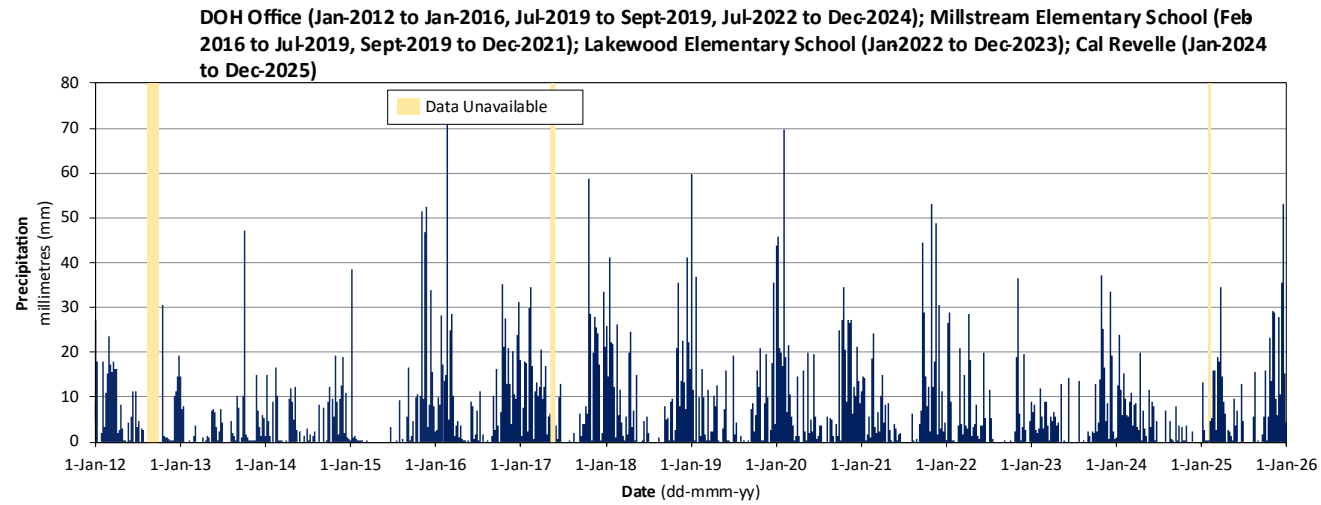
PROJECT NO. CA0052397.4146 REV. 1 FIGURE 1

IF THIS MEASUREMENT DOES NOT MATCH WHAT IS SHOWN, THE SHEET SIZE HAS BEEN MODIFIED FROM: ANSI B

25mm

0



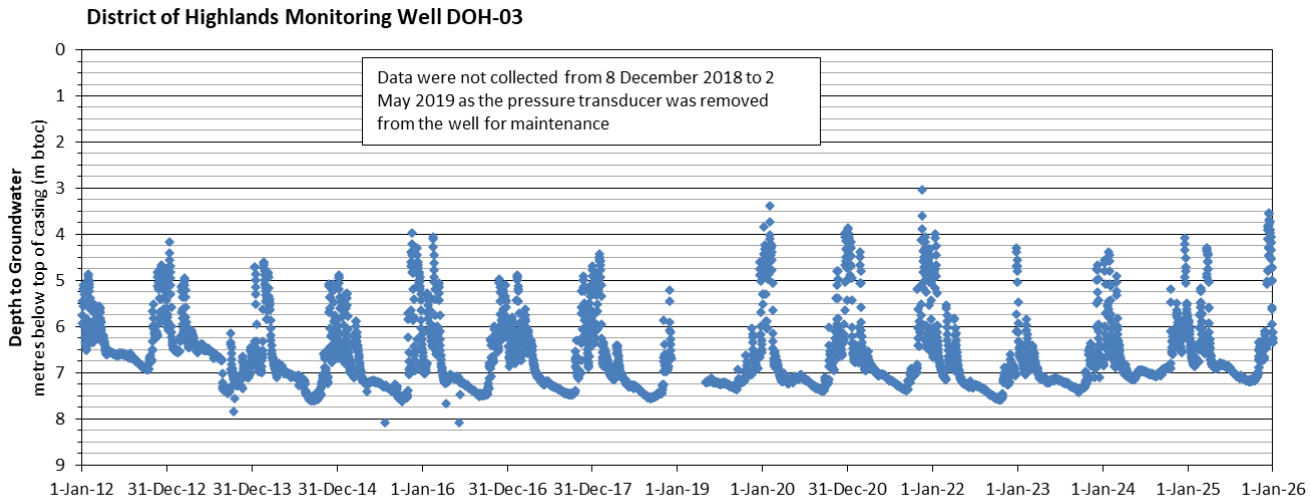


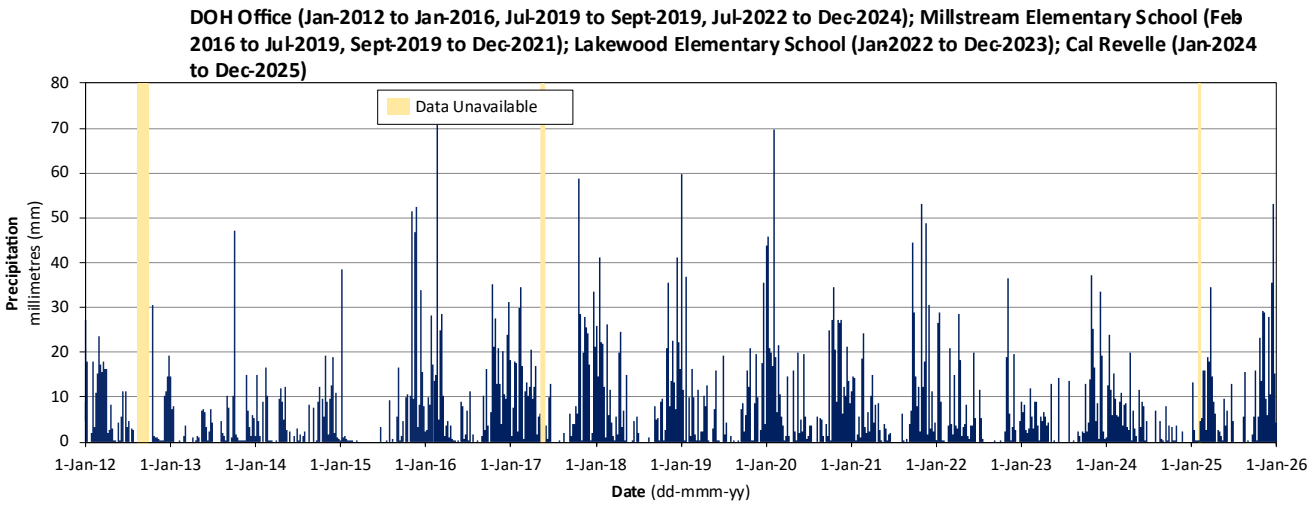
Notes

Water level data collected under the District of Highlands Groundwater Monitoring Program.

Precipitation data obtained online from the University of Victoria School-Based Weather Station Network.
http://www.victoriaweather.ca/

PROJECT	**DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS 2025 GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAM HIGHLANDS, BC**				
TITLE	**DEPTH TO GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELL DOH-01 AND PRECIPITATION IN SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS**				
	PROJECT	CA0052397.4146		FILE No.	----
	DESIGN	CB	06NOV14	SCALE NTS	REV. 0
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	CHECK	MB	22APR26		
	REVIEW	MB	22APR26		



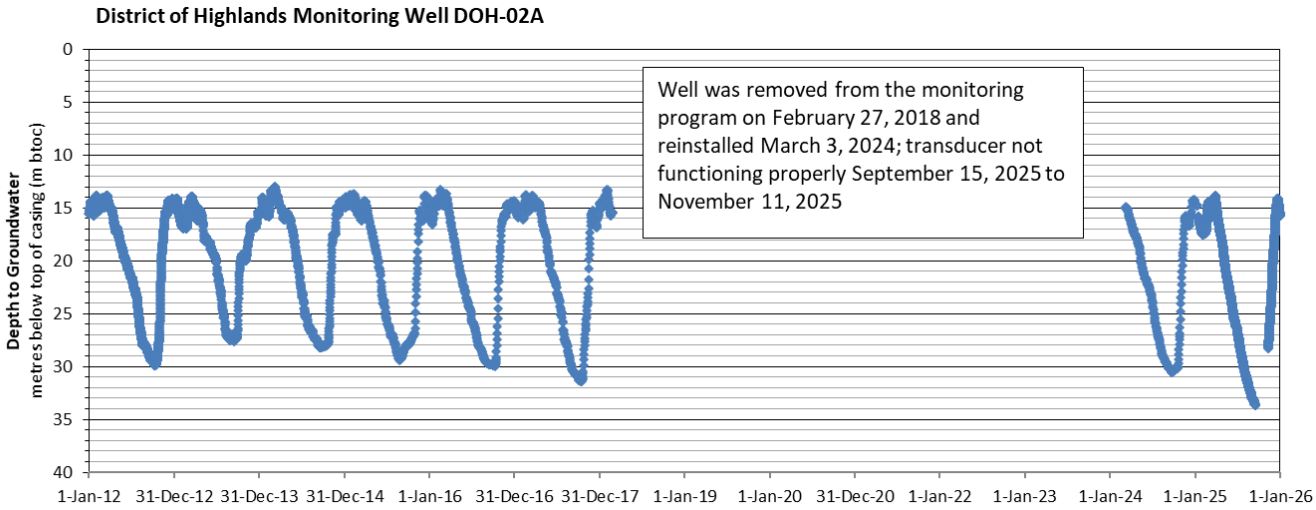


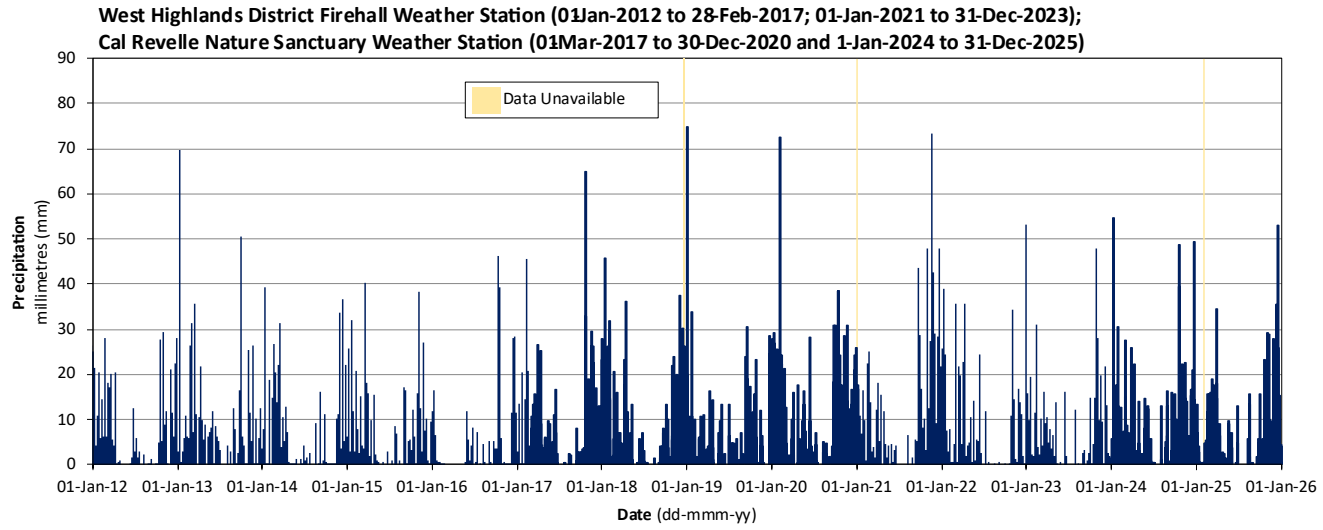
Notes

Water level data collected under the District of Highlands Groundwater Monitoring Program.

Precipitation data obtained online from the University of Victoria School-Based Weather Station Network.
http://www.victoriaweather.ca/

PROJECT	**DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS 2025 GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAM HIGHLANDS, BC**				
TITLE	**DEPTH TO GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELL DOH-03 AND PRECIPITATION IN SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS**				
	PROJECT	CA0052397.4146		FILE No.	----
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	REVIEW	MB	22APR26		



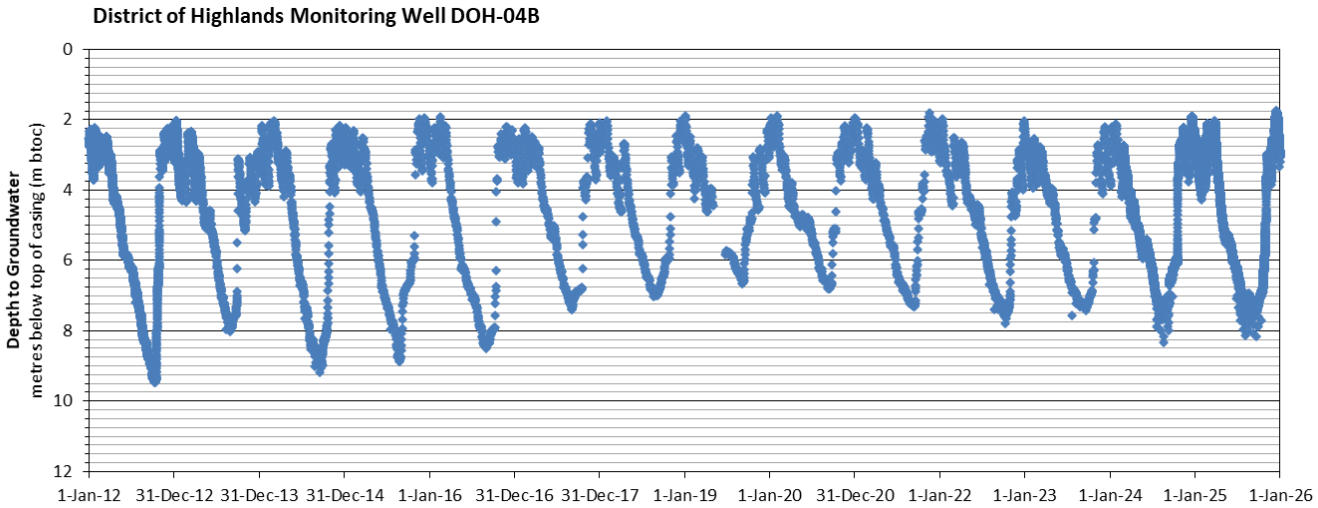


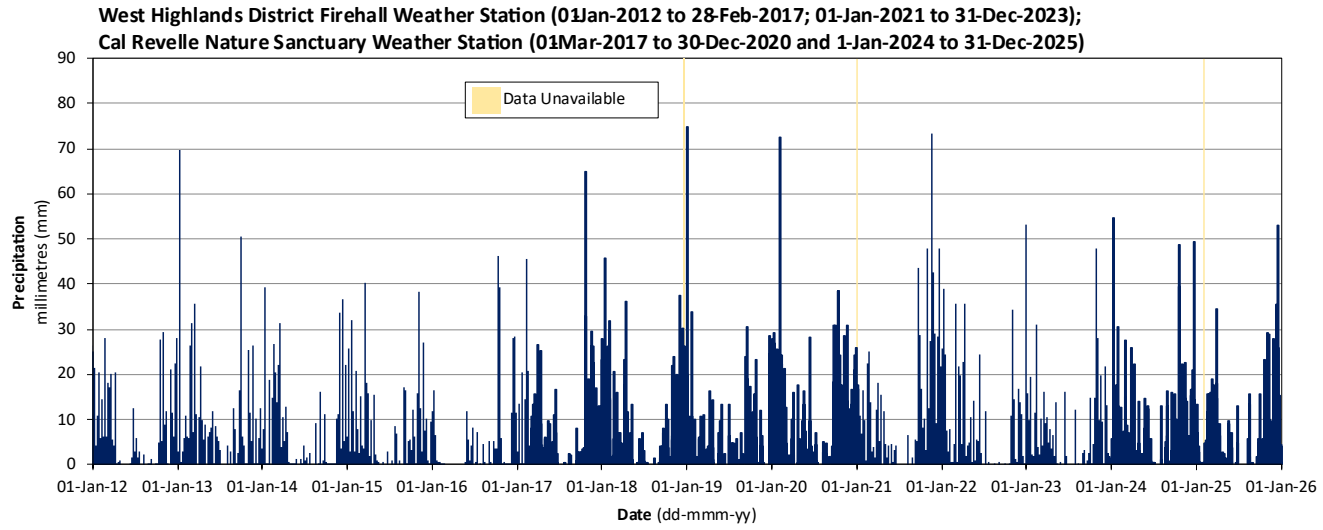
Notes

Water level data collected under the District of Highlands Groundwater Monitoring Program.

Precipitation data obtained online from the University of Victoria School-Based Weather Station Network.
http://www.victoriaweather.ca/

PROJECT	DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS 2025 GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAM HIGHLANDS, BC				
TITLE	DEPTH TO GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELL DOH-02A AND PRECIPITATION IN WESTERN HIGHLANDS				
wsp	PROJECT	CA0052397.4146		FILE No.	----
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	REVIEW	MB	22APR26		



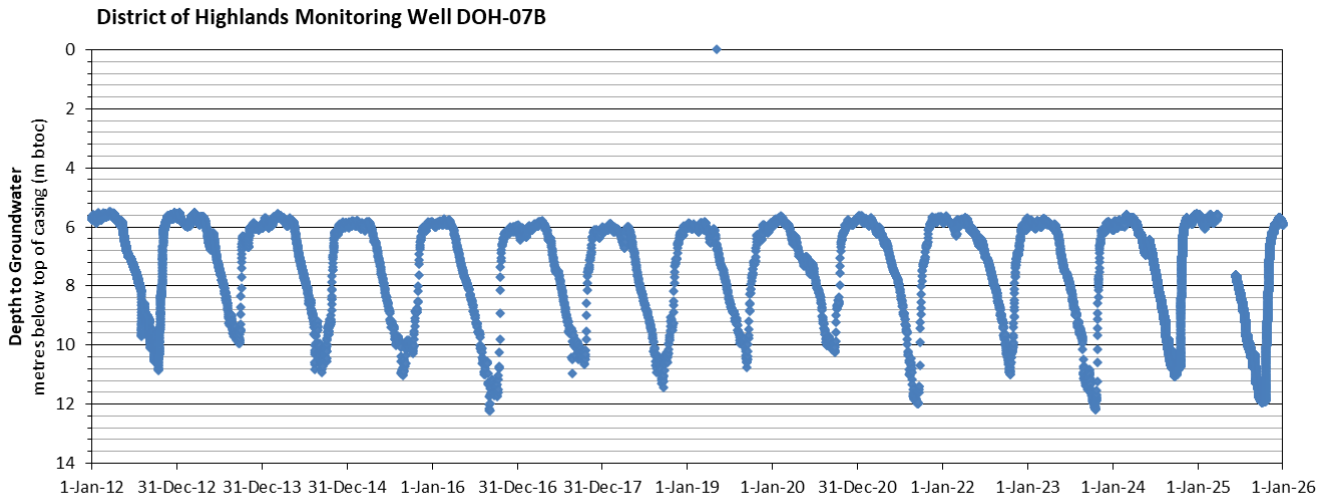


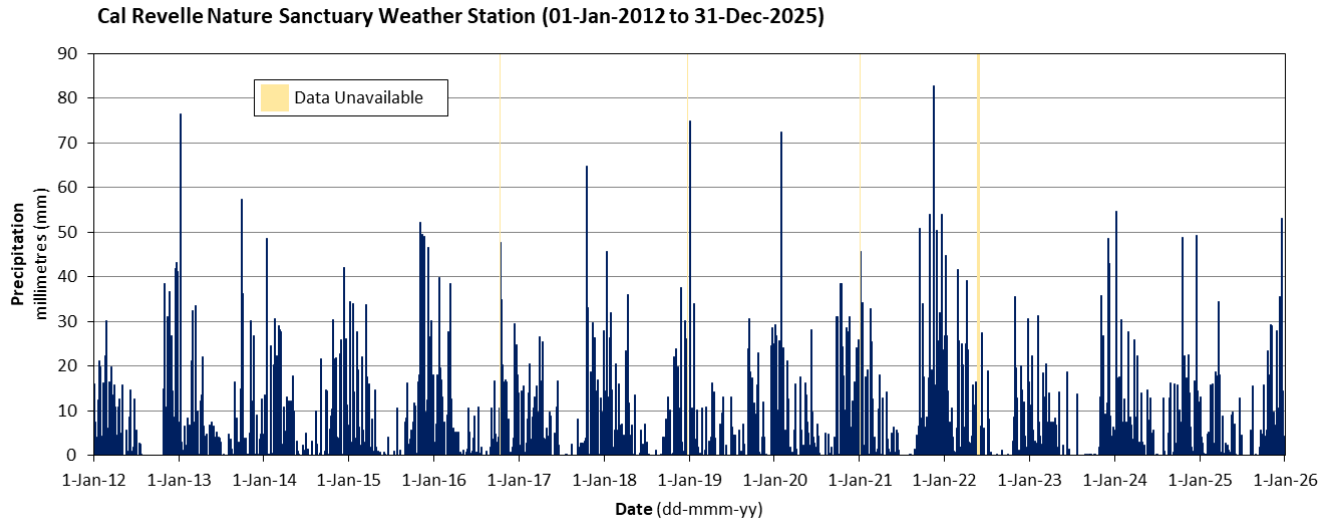
Notes

Water level data collected under the District of Highlands Groundwater Monitoring Program.

Precipitation data obtained online from the University of Victoria School-Based Weather Station Network.
http://www.victoriaweather.ca/

PROJECT	**DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS 2025 GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAM HIGHLANDS, BC**				
TITLE	**DEPTH TO GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELL DOH-04B AND PRECIPITATION IN WESTERN HIGHLANDS**				
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	REVIEW	MB	22APR26		



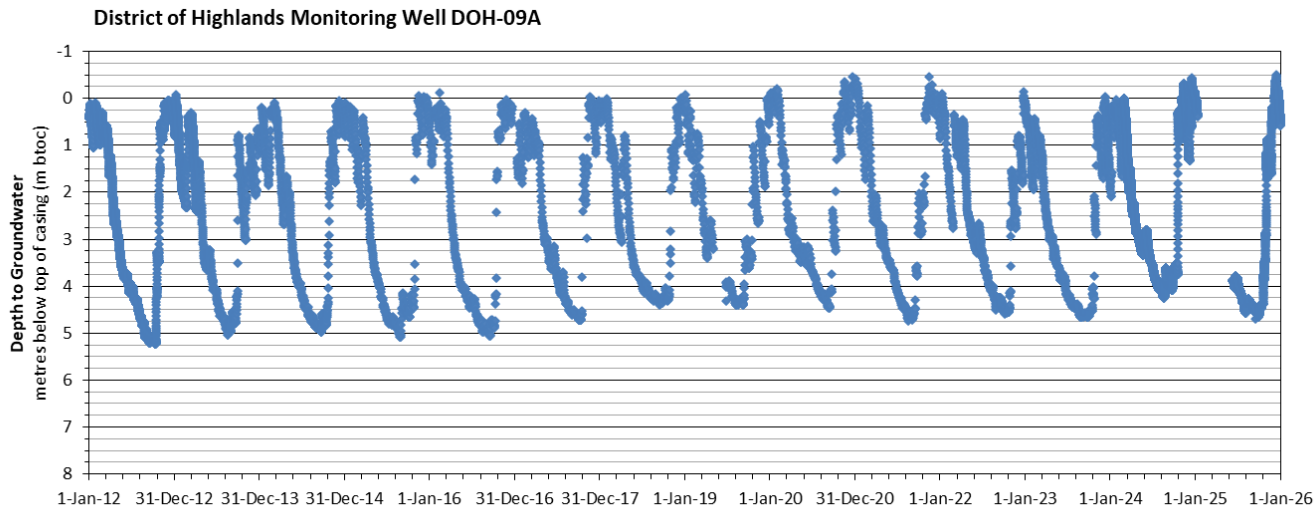


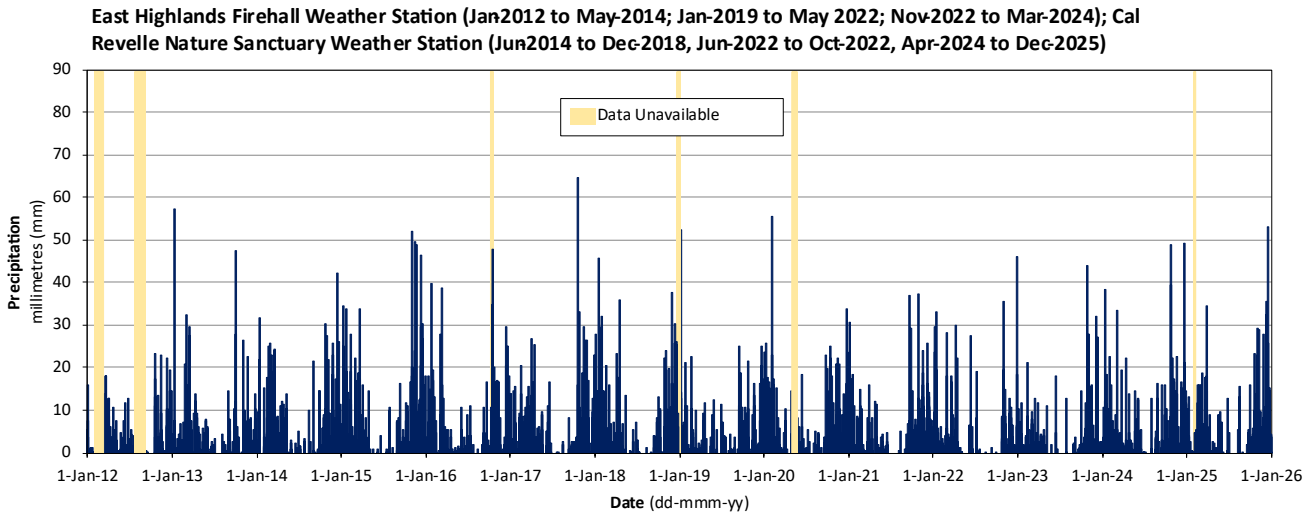
Notes

Water level data collected under the District of Highlands Groundwater Monitoring Program.

Precipitation data obtained online from the University of Victoria School-Based Weather Station Network.
http://www.victoriaweather.ca/

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TITLE	**DEPTH TO GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELL DOH-07B AND PRECIPITATION IN NORTHERN HIGHLANDS**				
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	REVIEW	MB	22APR26		



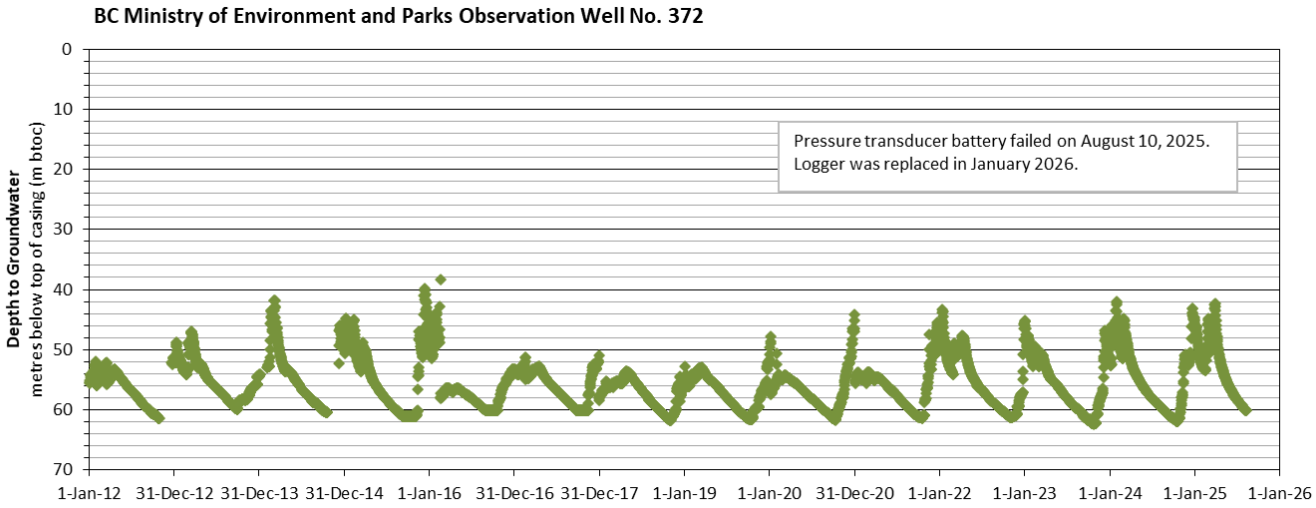


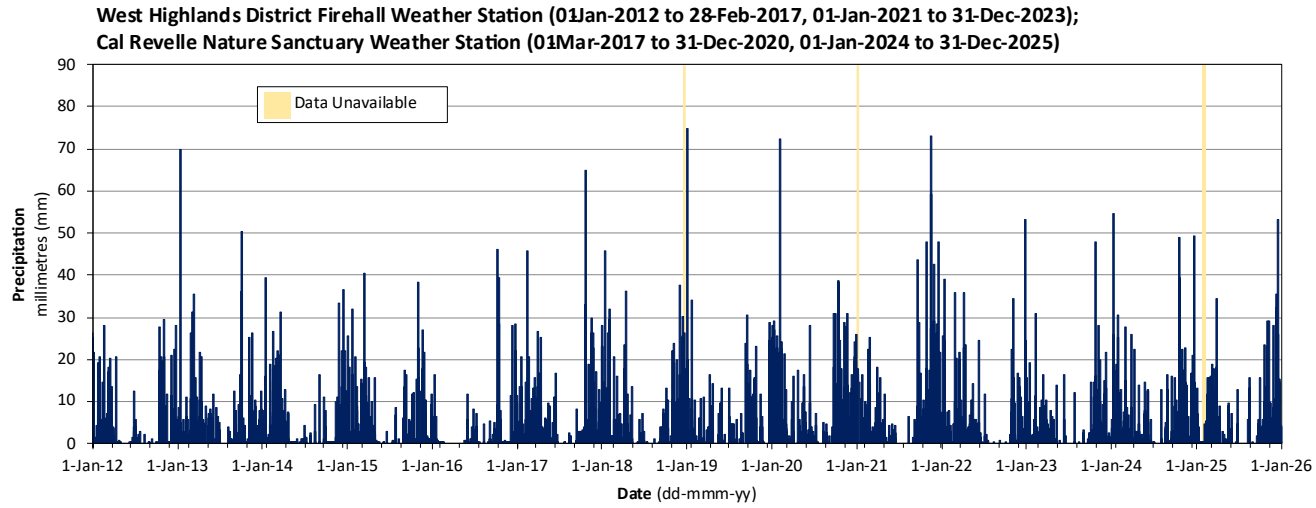
Notes

Water level data collected under the District of Highlands Groundwater Monitoring Program.

Precipitation data obtained online from the University of Victoria School-Based Weather Station Network.
http://www.victoriaweather.ca/

PROJECT	**DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS 2025 GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAM HIGHLANDS, BC**				
TITLE	**DEPTH TO GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELL DOH-09A AND PRECIPITATION IN EASTERN HIGHLANDS**				
	PROJECT	CA0052397.4146		FILE No.	----
	DESIGN	CB	06NOV14	SCALE NTS	REV. 0
	CADD	AU	20APR26	**FIGURE 7**	
	CHECK	MB	22APR26		
	REVIEW	MB	22APR26		





Notes

Water level data obtained online from the Ministry of Environment British Columbia Groundwater Observation Network.
http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/data_searches/obswell/map/obsWells.html

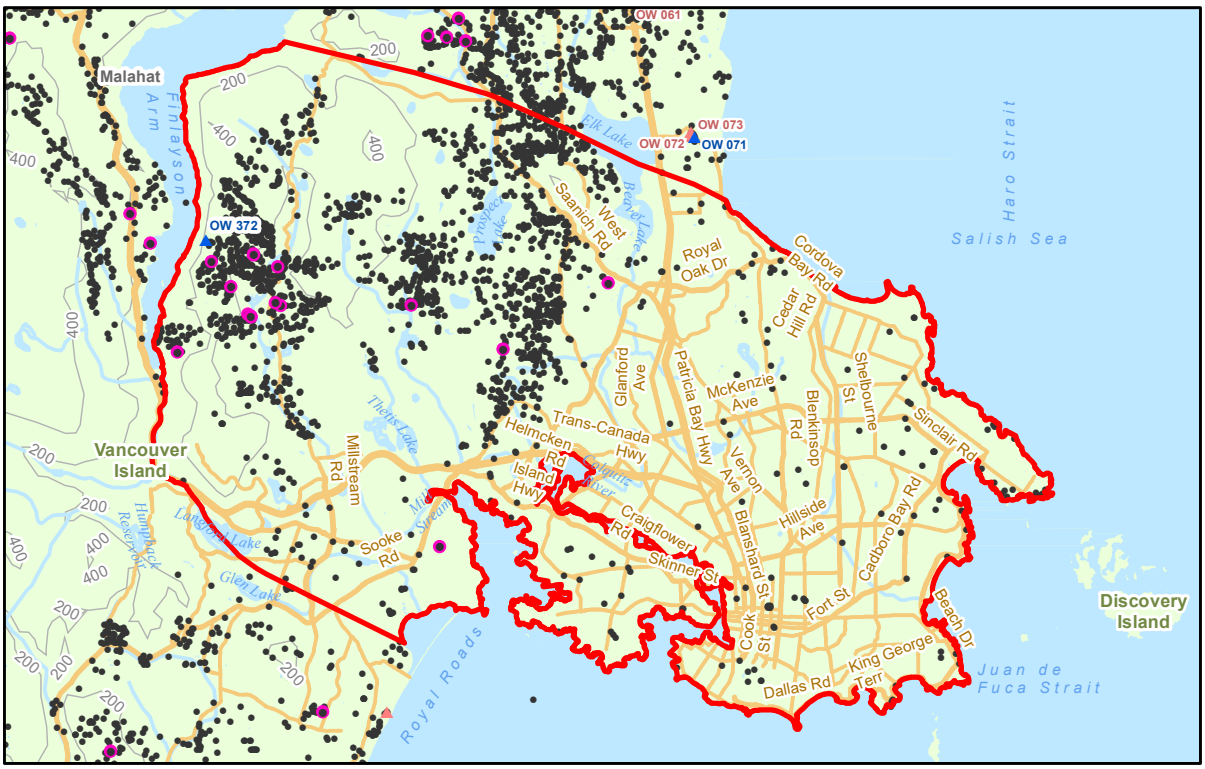
Precipitation data obtained online from the University of Victoria School-Based Weather Station Network.
http://www.victoriaweather.ca/

PROJECT	**DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS 2025 GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAM HIGHLANDS, BC**				
TITLE	**DEPTH TO GROUNDWATER BC ENV OBSERVATION WELL 372 AND PRECIPITATION IN WESTERN HIGHLANDS**				
wsp	PROJECT	CA0052397.4146		FILE No.	----
	DESIGN	CB	06NOV14	SCALE NTS	REV. 0
	CADD	AU	20APR26	**FIGURE 8**	
	CHECK	MB	22APR26		
	REVIEW	MB	22APR26		

ATTACHMENT 1

Aquifer Factsheet: Aquifer 680 Wark-Colquitz

Aquifer #680
Wark-Colquitz





Legend
- Registered Water Well - Artesian
- Registered Water Well
- Active Observation Well
- Inactive Observation Well
- Aquifer Boundary

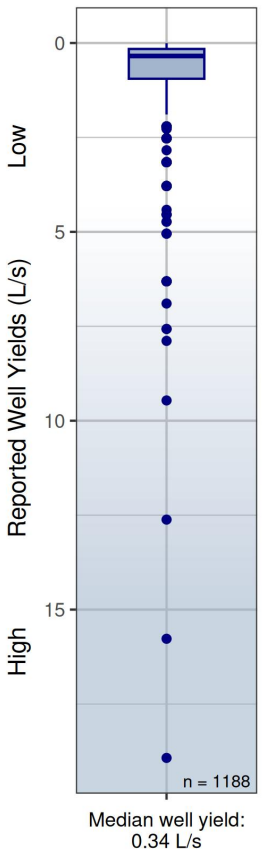
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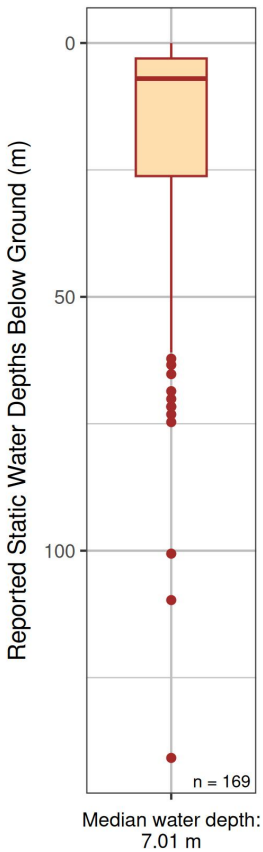
N

Aquifer Description (Mapping Report - 2012): Fractured crystalline (igneous intrusive or metamorphic, meta-sedimentary, meta-volcanic, volcanic) rock aquifer (subtype = 6b).

Aquifer Details	
Region	West Coast
Water District	Victoria
Aquifer Area	209 km^2
No. Wells Correlated	1259
Vulnerability to Contamination	Moderate
Productivity	Moderate
Aquifer Classification	IB
Hydraulic Conductivity *	Unknown
Transmissivity *	Unknown
Storativity *	Unknown
No. Water Licences Issued to Wells	3
Observation Wells (**Active**, Inactive)	**372**

* min - max
For Hydraulic Connection see guidance document



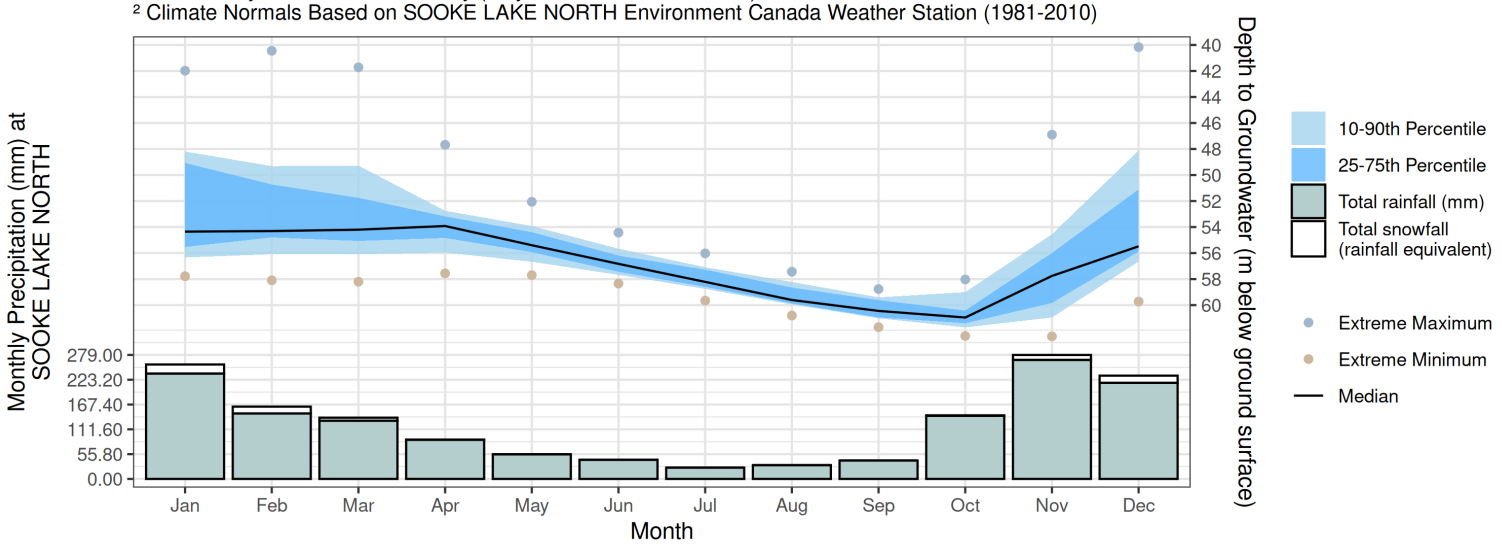




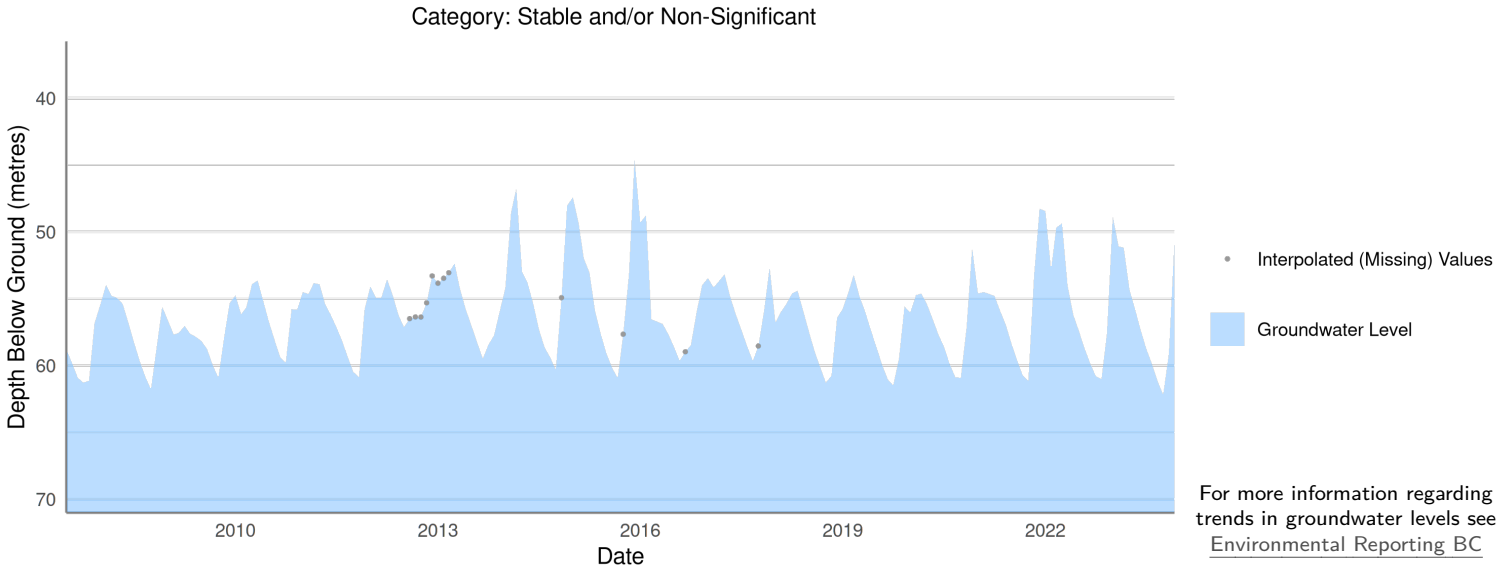
Disclaimer: Use of information from Aquifer factsheets (accessed by BC government website) is subject to limitation of liability provisions (further described on that website). That information is provided by the BC government as a public service on an "as is" basis, without warranty of any kind, whether express or implied, and its use is at your own risk. Under no circumstances will the BC government, or its staff, agents and contractors, be responsible or liable to any person or business entity, for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, consequential or any other loss or damages to any person or business entity based on this factsheet or any use of information from it.
Detailed methods for all figures are described in the companion document (Aquifer Factsheet - Companion Document.pdf).
Factsheet generated: 2025-03-26. Aquifers online: https://apps.nrs.gov.bc.ca/gwells/aquifers.

Monthly Groundwater Level[1] with Precipitation from Climate Normals[2]

[1] Full Monthly Water Level Summary (17 years of data; 2007-2024)
[2] Climate Normals Based on SOOKE LAKE NORTH Environment Canada Weather Station (1981-2010)

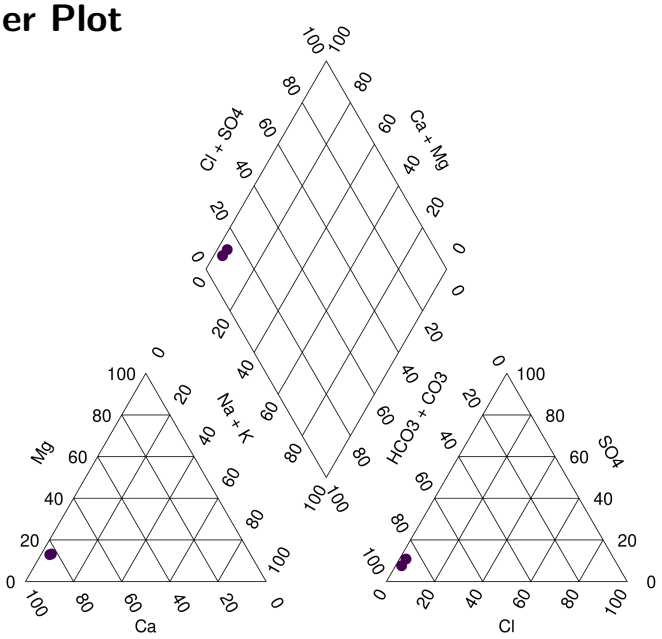


Groundwater Levels and Long-term Trend



For more information regarding trends in groundwater levels see Environmental Reporting BC

Piper Plot



The groundwater samples are typically of the Ca-HCO3 type. Ca is the dominant cation, which indicates a less evolved/short flow path recharge area type of groundwater. The fact that HCO3 is the dominant anion shows the source is primarily recent precipitation in the bedrock aquifer #680. For EMS water chemistry data, see EMS ID E267282.

ATTACHMENT 2

Conditional Groundwater Licence for Bear Mountain Golf Course

Province of British Columbia
Water Sustainability Act

CONDITIONAL WATER LICENCE

The owner(s) of the land to which this licence is appurtenant is hereby authorized to divert and use water as follows:

a) The aquifer on which the rights are granted is comprised of bedrock materials within the Millstream Watershed (VICT – Millstream) located at approximately 67 metres (220 feet), 84 metres (275 feet), and 116 metres (380 feet) depth below ground surface.

b) The points of well diversions (WTN 79523, WTN 81690, and WTN 95749) are located as shown on the attached plan.

c) The date from which this licence shall have precedence is February 2, 2007.

d) The purposes for which this licence is issued are industrial (lawn, fairway & garden) and land improvement.

e) The maximum quantity of water which may be diverted for industrial (lawn, fairway & garden) purpose is 243,180 cubic metres per year, and for land improvement purpose is 36,520 cubic metres per year.

f) The period of the year during which the water may be used is May 1 to October 31.

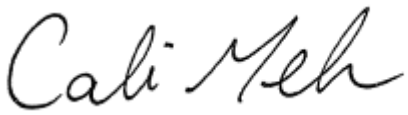
g) The land upon which the water is to be used and to which this licence is appurtenant is Section 5, Range 4 West, Except Parts in Plans VIP60675, VIP67875 & VIP75584; the South 60 acres of Section 6, Range 4 West, Except Part in Plan VIP67875; Section 12, Except Parts in Plans 10853, 11134 & 45402; Section 16, Except that Part in Plan VIP72555; Block B, Section 75; Lot 1, Sections 81, 82 and 84, Plan VIP75509, Except Plans VIP76365, VIP79028, VIP82848, VIP82851, VIP85324, EPP19660, EPP63084, EPP72419, EPP80460 & EPP70640; and Lot 2, Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84, Plan VIP75509, Except Parts in Plans VIP76365, VIP78873, VIP81135, VIP81958, VIP82040, VIP89370, EPP42751, EPP46993, EPP80460, EPP68922 & EPP111201, all within Highland District.

h) The authorized works are three wells, three meters, two ponds, two pumphouses, pipe, and irrigation system, which shall be located approximately as shown on the attached plan.

i) The construction of the said works has been completed and the water is being beneficially used. The licensee shall continue to make regular beneficial use of the water in a manner authorized herein.

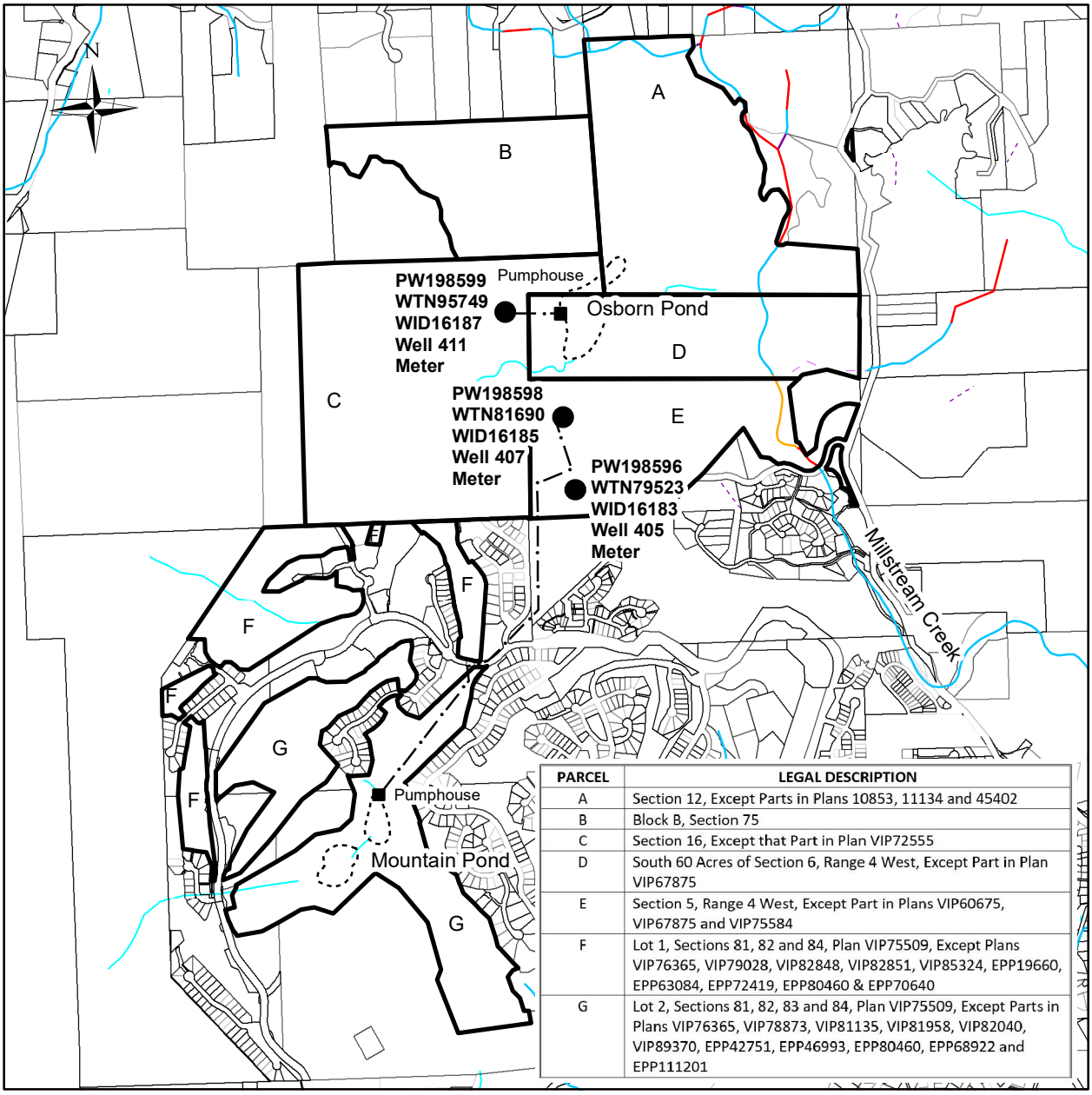
j) The licensee shall install a flow measuring device to the satisfaction of an Engineer under the *Water Sustainability Act*.

k) The licensee shall retain flow meter records for inspection upon request by an Engineer under the *Water Sustainability Act*.



Cali Melnechenko
Water Manager

BRITISH COLUMBIA



PARCEL	LEGAL DESCRIPTION
A	Section 12, Except Parts in Plans 10853, 11134 and 45402
B	Block B, Section 75
C	Section 16, Except that Part in Plan VIP72555
D	South 60 Acres of Section 6, Range 4 West, Except Part in Plan VIP67875
E	Section 5, Range 4 West, Except Part in Plans VIP60675, VIP67875 and VIP75584
F	Lot 1, Sections 81, 82 and 84, Plan VIP75509, Except Plans VIP76365, VIP79028, VIP82848, VIP82851, VIP85324, EPP19660, EPP63084, EPP72419, EPP80460 & EPP70640
G	Lot 2, Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84, Plan VIP75509, Except Parts in Plans VIP76365, VIP78873, VIP81135, VIP81958, VIP82040, VIP89370, EPP42751, EPP46993, EPP80460, EPP68922 and EPP111201

WATER DISTRICT: VICTORIA
PRECINCT: VICTORIA
LAND DISTRICT: HIGHLAND
WATERSHED: VICT - Millstream

Signature: Cali Mele
Date: June 23, 2023

LEGEND:

Scale: 1:20,000
Point of Diversion: ●
Map Number: 92B.043.3
Pipe: ·—·—·—·–

C.L.: 501806
FILE: 20006990

The boundaries of the land to which this licence is appurtenant are shown thus: ——————