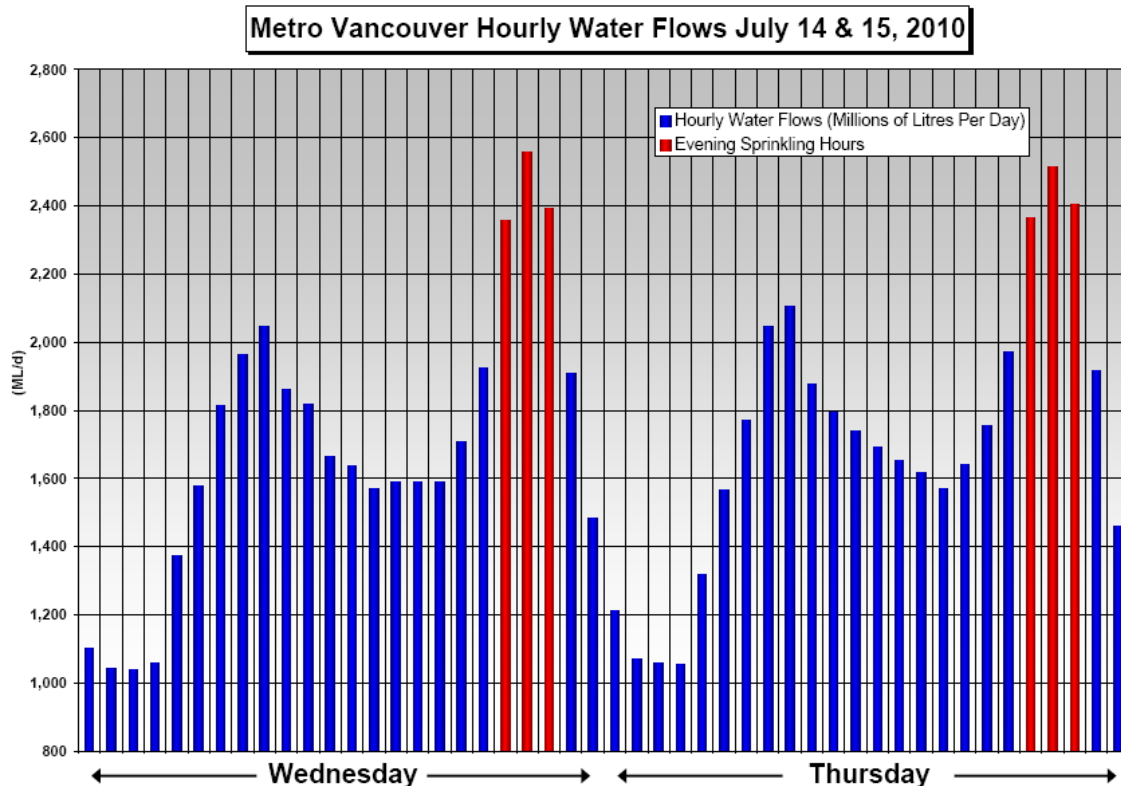


July 22, 2010

WATER CONSUMPTION SPIKES ON LAWN SPRINKLING DAYS



The demand for Metro Vancouver water climbed dramatically during the first two weeks of July.

Water use soared the last two Wednesday and Thursday evenings, when lawn sprinkling is allowed.

The three mountain reservoirs are still about 90 per cent full and additional restrictions on water use are not needed at this time. However, Metro Vancouver can use the public’s help to flatten out some of the very high peaks in water demand on lawn sprinkling days.

“There’s plenty of world-class water for personal use and for quenching your thirst on a hot summer’s day,” Metro Vancouver Water Committee Chair Tim Stevenson said.

“But water is a resource we should not waste in summer, when demand is highest, by drenching lawns that will green up again in the fall.”

Stevenson encourages the public to conserve water.

“If you intend to sprinkle your lawn during one of the lawn sprinkling days, try to do it in the morning, when water demand is lower and evaporation is reduced and less water is wasted,” he said.

So far this summer, the biggest spike in daily water consumption occurred on Thursday, July 8, when Metro Vancouver supplied about 1.7 billion litres of water.

The water consumed that day was equivalent to about 740 litres of water used for each of the region's 2.3 million residents.

Lawn sprinkling and other outdoor uses typically account for about one quarter of total water consumption.

In winter, about one billion litres of water is consumed in the region each day.

During June, July, August and September, sprinkling is permitted between 4 a.m. and 9 a.m. and between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. on the following days:

- *Wednesday and Saturday for even-numbered addresses and*
- *Thursday and Sunday for odd-numbered addresses.*

Some wise water use tips:

- *A healthy lawn only needs to be watered for one hour, once a week - or less if it rains.*
- *Let your lawn go dormant during the summer. Brown is the new green in lawn care.*
- *Most lawns only need 2.5cm of water each week, Put an empty tuna can out on the lawn when you sprinkle. Turn off the sprinkler when the can is full of water.*
- *Water your lawns and gardens early in the morning to reduce evaporation.*
- *Leave grass clippings on your lawn. This reduces evaporation and the need to water your lawn.*

For more information on weekdays, please contact the Metro Vancouver Information Centre, at 604-432-6200.



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