

SOUTHEAST KELOWNA AGRICULTURAL UPDATES

April 2024



SEK-area agricultural customer updates

The City of Kelowna operates and maintains the non-potable, irrigation water supply to approximately 500 agricultural producers in Southeast Kelowna. This bulletin provides an update on the seasonal system start up, water supply status, water quality, and water rates.

Billing inquiries

Utility Billing Office
City of Kelowna
250-469-8757
utilitybilling@kelowna.ca

Utility inquiries

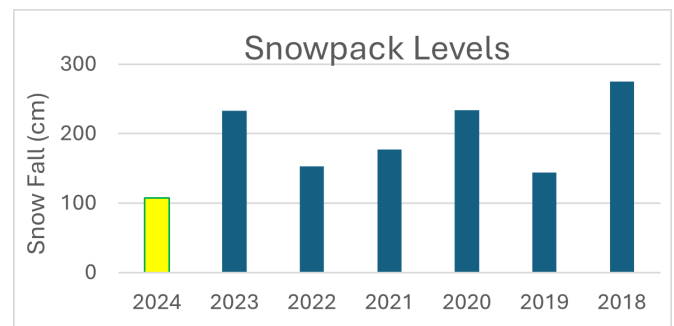
Utility Yards Office
City of Kelowna
250-469-8600
Includes Water Turn-on and
Turn-off requests.



Water Supply Status

As a result of lower-than-normal snowpack levels, upland reservoirs that supply irrigation water to the Southeast Kelowna (SEK) agricultural community are at risk of not filling. Unless precipitation significantly increases in the next 2 months, this may require that water use toward allotments be firmly capped (no overages allowed) at the prescribed volume of 2,772 cubic meters per acre, which represents an irrigation water depth of 686 mm.

The Utility is actively managing the watershed to maximize storage and will provide another update in mid-May as to the water level status and direction on potential water restrictions. All irrigation users are encouraged to closely monitor water use to remain within their allotment throughout the season.



Sign up for e-updates at
kelowna.ca/notifications

Agriculture irrigation system turn-on

The annual spring irrigation turn-on process will occur between April 8-19, weather dependent. All services will be ready for use May 1st consistent with the Water Regulation Bylaw and the schedule used in previous years. Requests for early turn-ons and appointments will be considered for a fee. However, the risk of frost and any associated costs are the owner's responsibility. To make an appointment, please call the Utility Yards office at 250-469-8600 or submit a service request online.

Note that a marker rod with a flag will be placed at each service. A green flag indicates the service is on and ready to go. A red flag indicates there is an issue that needs attention prior to turning on the service.

Water Quality

Non-potable water quality can fluctuate significantly depending on freshet conditions. Course screening and chlorination remain the only form of treatment prior to the water being delivered to each property. As sediment and particle size conditions can change rapidly, irrigation users are encouraged to monitor the SEK Irrigation Turbidity dashboard to view water quality in near real time. To access this information, please visit kelowna.ca/waterquality.

Water rates & allotments

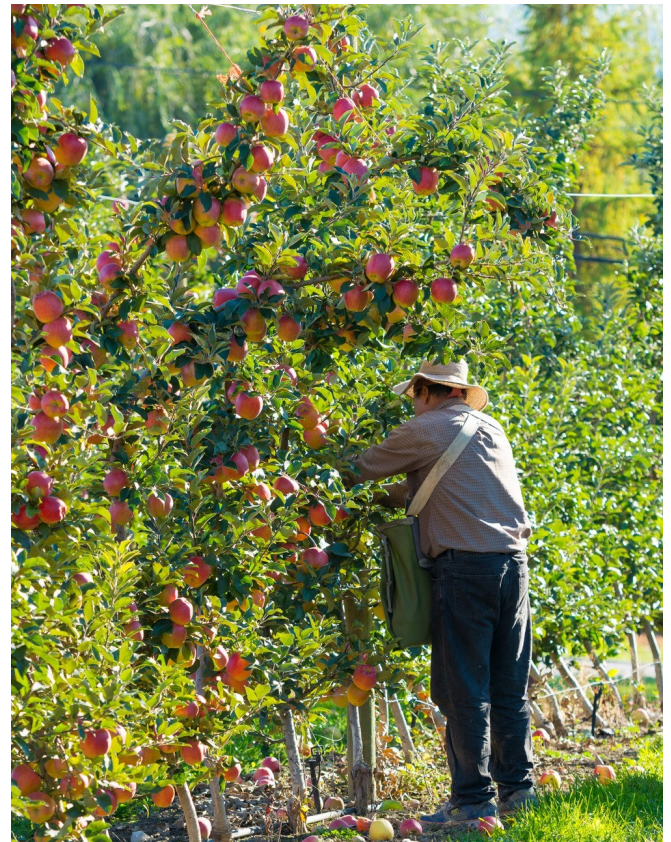
New rates for agriculture and non-potable water customers were approved by Council and took effect on March 1, 2024. Agriculture customers are those properties classified as Farm under the *BC Assessment Act* and are billed annually per acre of allotment. Details on Allotments, rates and classifications can be viewed at kelowna.ca/waterrates.

	Unit	2024 Rate
Annual Allotment Fee	per Acre	\$142.92
	per Hectare	\$352.89

Stay informed

Receive up-to-date information about turn-ons, water supply conditions and water through our water e-bulletins. Email will be the main method of communicating with customers in the future.

To sign up, visit kelowna.ca/notifications. Once there, enter your email address and select **Agricultural Water Updates**, along with any other updates you would like to receive from the City.



Reminder to sign-up for EyeOnWater

The Utility offers a free app called EyeOnWater (EOW) that allows you to remotely monitor and manage your water use towards your allotment in near real time. If you have not taken advantage of this useful tool, information on the program and registration instructions are available at kelowna.ca/watermeters or by calling Utility Billing at 250-469-8757.

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