

Coquitlam-Buntzen Water Use Plan Order Review & *Fisheries Act* Authorization Renewal

Information Session



kʷikʷəłəm
Kwikwetlem First Nation



Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- System Overview
- WUP & WUPOR
- Process
- Engagement
- ORAC
- Objectives and Key Issues
- Next Steps
- Q&A



kʷikʷəłəm

Red Fish up the River

- The name kʷikʷəłəm embodies the deep ties between the community, the 'red fish', and the life-giving waters of the Coquitlam watershed.
- Coquitlam Lake is a sacred and living part of kʷikʷəłəm culture.
- The health of the Watershed is inseparable from the well-being of the kʷikʷəłəm people.



This map illustrates the Coquitlam Lake Reservoir area and its surrounding infrastructure. Key features include:

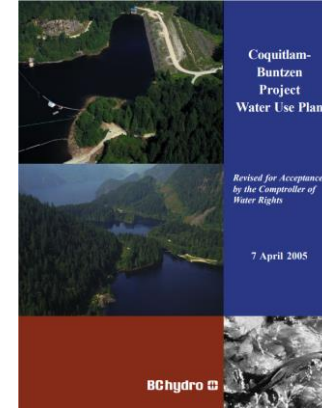
- Coquitlam Lake Reservoir:** The central water body, with an inset map showing its location relative to the Fraser River and Lougheed Highway.
- Coquitlam Dam:** Located on the Coquitlam River, which flows into the reservoir.
- Coquitlam Conservation Reserve:** Situated to the east of the reservoir.
- BC Hydro trails:** Indicated by dashed lines throughout the area.
- BC Hydro recreation site:** Located near the Buntzen Lake Reservoir.
- Buntzen Lake Reservoir:** A smaller reservoir to the west of the main one.
- Buntzen Dam:** Located on the Buntzen River, which flows into Buntzen Lake Reservoir.
- Powerhouses:** Two locations are marked near the Buntzen Dam.
- Aqueduct:** A line connecting the Buntzen Lake Reservoir to the Coquitlam Lake Reservoir.
- Eagle Mountain:** Located between the two reservoirs.
- Indian Arm:** A large body of water to the west.
- Belcarra Regional Park:** Located south of Indian Arm.
- Sasamat Lake:** A small lake near Belcarra Regional Park.
- Anmore:** A town located south of Buntzen Lake Reservoir.
- Port Moody:** Located further south, near Burrard Inlet.
- Lougheed Highway:** A major road running along the bottom right, with a 6 km distance marked from the Coquitlam Dam.
- Fraser River:** Shown in the inset map at the bottom right.
- BC Hydro trails:** A legend in the top right corner shows a dashed line representing these trails.
- Inset Map:** Provides a broader geographical context, showing the Coquitlam Lake Reservoir area in relation to the Fraser River and Lougheed Highway.
- Map Labels:** Various locations are labeled, including Indian Arm, Belcarra, Belcarra Regional Park, Burrard Inlet, Port Moody, Anmore, Buntzen Lake Reservoir, Buntzen Dam, Powerhouses, BC Hydro trails, BC Hydro recreation site, Eagle Mountain, Coquitlam Lake Reservoir, Coquitlam Dam, Coquitlam River, Coquitlam Conservation Reserve, Metro Vancouver Regional District Watershed, and Lougheed Highway.
- Map Scale:** A scale bar in the bottom left corner indicates a distance of 6 km.
- Map Orientation:** A north arrow is located in the bottom right corner.

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Coquitlam-Buntzen Water Use Plan

Seeking a better balance

- 1999-2003: engagement
- April 2005: accepted by the Comptroller of Water Rights and implemented
- Order Review:
 - The 13th step of the Province's water use planning guidelines identifies a need to review how things are going.



Order Review Process



**BC Hydro, as the water license holder, will submit the Water Use Plan Order Review report to the Comptroller of Water Rights and apply to DFO to renew FAA.*



Engagement



- Will be **collaborative**: involves federal and provincial agencies, First Nations, license holders, key stakeholders, local government and the public.
- Will take **time**: requires ongoing meetings, technical reviews and detailed modeling.
- We'll **share information** through open houses, our website and other local communications across the regions.
 - Open Houses: September, November 2025. Additional open houses will be planned throughout the Review.
 - www.bchydro.com/coquitlambuntzen
- ORAC: Target start early 2026.

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Coquitlam-Buntzen system



What's new

August 2025

Join our virtual information session on Wednesday, September 10, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The session will be hosted by BC Hydro and kwikwakaam (Kwikwetlem First Nation) and will provide a high-level background on the Water Use Plan, the Order Review, the Fisheries Act Authorization, as well as timelines and key milestones.

To register, please email projects@bchydro.com and a meeting invitation will be sent to you.



Order Review Advisory Committee (ORAC)



The **ORAC** will:

- Include federal and provincial agencies, First Nations, license holders, key stakeholders, local governments
- Review available information
- Identify key issues related to Order operations
- Develop recommendations, where applicable
- Work to consensus



Coquitlam-Buntzen WUP Order

WUP Order has regulated Coquitlam-Buntzen BC Hydro operations since 2006



The order includes:

- Modification of works – discharge facilities.
- Minimum flows in Coquitlam River.
- Downstream operations in coordination with Metro Vancouver.
- Ramping rates.
- Minimum operating levels of Buntzen Lake Reservoir
- Maximum operating elevation of Coquitlam Lake Reservoir
- Monitoring programs.



Identifying Issues

- Consultative Committee Report (2002) and Coquitlam-Buntzen Water Use Plan (2005)
- Operational information obtained since the Order was issued:
 - Results of studies
 - Operational experience
- New operational issues - input from First Nations, regulators and stakeholders



Water Use Plan Objectives

2005

- Archaeological, Cultural & Historical
- Domestic Water
- Fish (Coquitlam River)
- Fish (Coquitlam Reservoir)
- Flood Control (Coquitlam River)
- Hydroelectricity
- Industry
- Recreation
- Wildlife/Environment



Objectives and Anticipated Key Issues

Operational

Fish & Aquatic Ecosystems:

- Fish and aquatic productivity

Power Generation:

- Maximize Power Generation

Heritage and Culture:

- Archaeology in Coquitlam Reservoir

Public Safety & Recreation:

- Buntzen Lake reservoir elevations



Objectives and Anticipated Key Issues

Operational

Domestic Water:

- Metro Vancouver nominations and coordinating flow release targets

Flooding:

- Coquitlam River

Climate Change:

- Watershed



Order Review Advisory Committee (ORAC)



Participation

- January 2026 to early 2027
- Application process
- Membership from diverse interests
- Attendance at regular, extended meetings each month.
- Includes site visits and additional technical meetings.
- Some compensation available

Order Review Advisory Committee (ORAC)

The ORAC will review available information and identify key issues related to Order operations.



Next Steps



1. Apply for the Order Review Advisory Committee –
Deadline: November 21.
 1. Members identified: December.
 2. First meeting: January (TBC).
2. Ongoing public engagement
3. Register to receive email updates at
projects@bchydro.com
4. Visit www.bchydro.com/coquitlambuntzen to learn more about the Coquitlam-Buntzen system, including the Water Use Plan.

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Coquitlam-Buntzen system



What's new

October 2025

Join our next virtual information session in November. It will be hosted by BC Hydro and Kwikwaka'nam (Kwkwetlem First Nation) and will provide information on how you can get involved in the Water Use Plan Order Review.

- Date: Thursday, November 6
- Time: 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- Location: Online
- To register, email projects@bchydro.com by November 5 and we'll send you a meeting invitation.

System overview

Coquitlam-Buntzen system map

Recreation

Capital projects

Water Use Plan Order Review and Fisheries Act Authorization Renewal

Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program

