

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

Information Session



k^wik^wəłəm
Kwkwetlem First Nation



September 2025

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- System Overview
- Water Use Plan, Water Use Plan Order Review & FAA
- Timeline
- Next Steps



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.



Program Team

Working with kʷikʷəłəm (Kwkwetlem First Nation),

BC Hydro

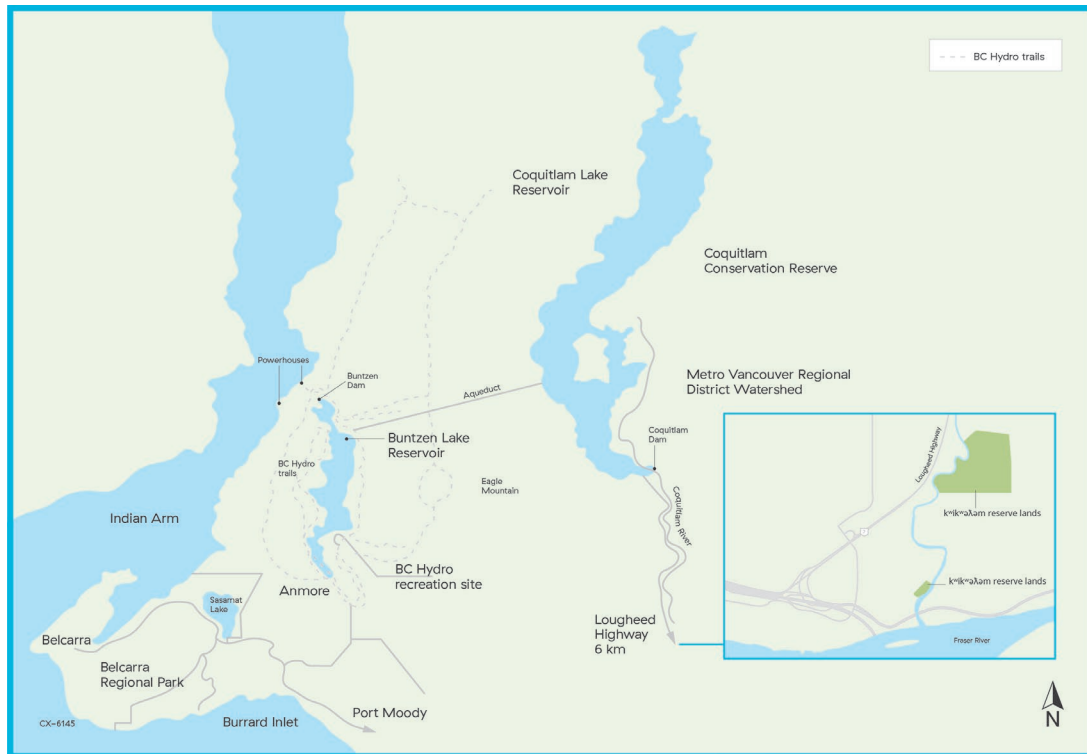
- Bruce Mattock, Lead
- Richard Borthwick, Environment
- Melanie Dame & Philip Van Huizen, Indigenous Relations
- Kathy Cartwright, Operations Planning
- Sabrina Locicero, Community Relations

kʷikʷəłəm

- Councilor George Chaffee
- Hailey Lavoie, Project Coordinator
- Kyle Robertson, Advsior
- Carol De Paoli, Director - Rights & Title
- Nicole Oakes, Archaeologist



Coquitlam-Buntzen System Overview



- The Coquitlam Lake and Buntzen reservoirs lie within the Metro Vancouver Regional District watershed about 10 km north of Lougheed Highway in Coquitlam.
- Water for the Coquitlam-Buntzen system originates in the headwaters of the Coquitlam River, which flows from Lower Mainland coastal mountains south to the Fraser River via the Coquitlam Lake Reservoir.



Water Use Planning

Seeking a better balance

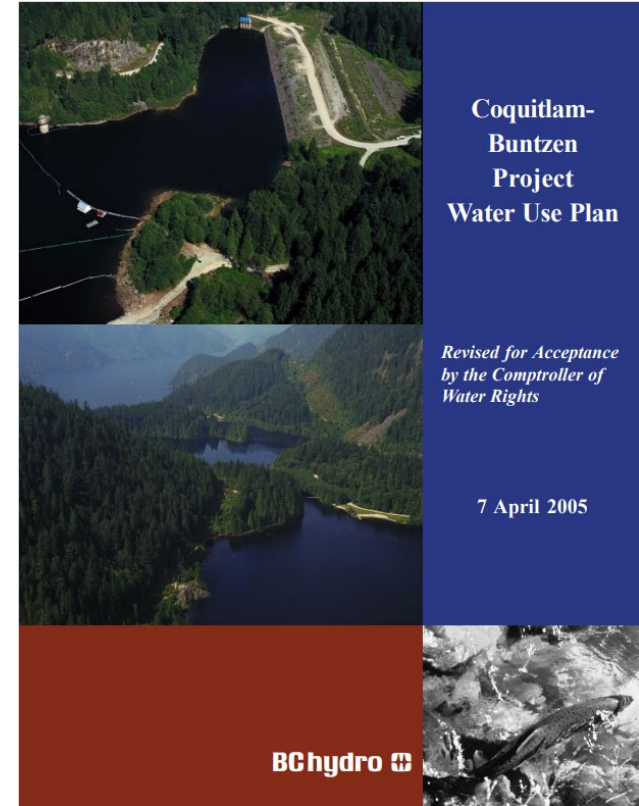
- From 1999-2005, BC Hydro undertook Water Use Planning across the province
- First collaborative watershed planning engagement activity of its kind
- 23 Water Use Plans
- Plans describe operating rules for BC Hydro
- Comptroller of Water Rights:
 - reviewed and accepted the Plans under B.C.'s *Water Act* (now *Water Sustainability Act*).
 - implemented Plans through Orders.



Water Use Plan

Coquitlam-Buntzen

- 1999-2003: engagement
- April 2005: accepted by the Comptroller of Water Rights and implemented



Water Use Plan

Order Review

- The 13th step of the Province's water use planning guidelines identifies a need to review how things are going.



***Fisheries Act* Authorizations**

Renewals



The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada issued *Fisheries Act* Authorizations (FAA) to BC Hydro for its generating facilities once the Water Use Plan Orders were in place.



The FAAs authorize impacts to fish and fish habitat related to BC Hydro's operations provided our facilities are operated in accordance with the Orders.



The Water Use Plan Orders and FAAs have been in place for more than 20 years.



Timeline



Order Review Advisory Committee (ORAC)

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



**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, October 2025. Additional open houses will be planned throughout the Review.
 - www.bchydro.com/coquitlambuntzen
- ORAC: Target start early 2026. More details to come.

Home » Projects & operations » Projects » Coquitlam-Buntzen system

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.



Next Steps



1. Register to receive email updates at projects@bchydro.com
2. Watch for the next public info session in October.
 - ORAC
 - Issues
3. Visit www.bchydro.com/coquitlam-buntzen to learn more about the Coquitlam-Buntzen system, including the Water Use Plan.

