



Reference: 47416

November 13, 2025

VIA EMAIL: wendy@wendyholm.com

Wendy Holm and Leah Weinberg
7914 White Duck Road
Fanny Bay, British Columbia
V0R 1W0

Dear Wendy Holm and Leah Weinberg:

Thank you for your letter and briefing note of September 10, 2025, to Honourable Randene Neill, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS), regarding Existing Use Groundwater (EUGW) licences in Fanny Bay. As Deputy Minister, I am asked to respond.

I understand that you have communicated with the EUGW groundwater team with respect to the applications and currently have related available information.

With the passing of the *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA), all non-domestic groundwater uses in the Province became subject to regulation. Existing groundwater users were required to apply for licenses as part of the provincial effort to integrate all existing groundwater users into the management system.

Each application is reviewed to ensure it is eligible as existing use (use prior to the WSA coming into force) and that the volume is consistent with the pre-WSA volumes and the purpose. Technical reviewers will also consider the context of the watershed and add conditions, clauses and/or restrictions as required. These may include monitoring and reporting requirements.

As you know, the Province continues to be responsible for drought response. Licence holders are advised that in the event of critical low flow periods, the quantity of water allocated by a licence may not be available. Further, during water shortage periods the holder of a licence may receive communications with requests to reduce water use, or

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instructions to cease diverting or using water. This process gives us better information to support more effective management of shared water resources.

I appreciate the time and effort of sharing the content of your letter briefing note. I hope the explanation provided on the process for EUGW applications clarifies the approach. I encourage you to engage with Dexter Kotylak, Resource Manager Strategic and Priority Projects: dexter.kotylak@gov.bc.ca should you have any further questions.

Again, thank you for writing and sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Halls".

Lori Halls
Deputy Minister

pc: Honourable Randene Neil, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Dexter Kotylak, Resource Manager Strategic and Priority Projects, Permitting
Transformation Division, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship