



# REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN

CITY OF ARMSTRONG  
DISTRICT OF COLDSTREAM  
CITY OF ENDERBY

VILLAGE OF LUMBY  
TOWNSHIP OF SPALLUMCHEEN  
CITY OF VERNON

"B" – SWAN LAKE  
"C" – B.X. DISTRICT  
"D" – LUMBY (RURAL)

"E" – CHERRYVILLE  
"F" – ENDERBY (RURAL)

OFFICE OF: ENGINEERING/PLANNING

OUR FILE No.: 5215

April 8, 2014

Email: [livingwatersmart@gov.bc.ca](mailto:livingwatersmart@gov.bc.ca)

Ministry of Environment  
Water Protection and Sustainability Branch  
Pricing B.C.'s Water Comments  
PO Box 9362, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9M 2

## **Re: Comments on Pricing Water in B.C.**

---

Water pricing is a crucial part of water sustainability in BC. As a water utility, Greater Vernon Water (GVW) understands the value of water for our community, environment, and economy. GVW has multiple water licenses for a variety of uses, the costs for which are paid for by customer water rates. Although water licenses currently account for a minimal portion of the yearly budget, future increases to these prices could potentially greatly impact GVW and other water utilities across the province. Therefore, it is crucial for utilities to be included in the discussion of water license pricing.

Upon reviewing the principles for informing water pricing, the highest priorities for GVW include the impact on water sources, efficiency, food security and public health. Protection of water sources is a large part of the watershed stewardship position that GVW fills. Pricing that promotes efficient use of water helps conserve this resource. Lastly, agricultural customers make up a portion of GVW water licenses and the utility recognizes the importance of agriculturalists to the Okanagan Basin. These principles should also apply to future groundwater licenses, and should be front and centre during water pricing discussions.

Changes to water license pricing needs to reflect the high value of water, and protect this resource in BC. Perhaps part of the revenue from increased license fees could go to a fund for enhancing water sustainability and creating a long term plan to guide the province in this matter. The province may wish to consider an external, de-politicized commission to oversee the recommendations for water license pricing. In conclusion, any changes to pricing may greatly affect utilities and the public.

Thank you again, for the opportunity to review and provide our comments. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the above please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Renee L. Clark".

Renee Clark  
Water Quality Manager

cc: Greater Vernon Advisory Committee  
T. Hall, Administrator  
D. McTaggart, General Manager Engineering  
R. Smailes, General Manager Planning and Building  
L. Mellott, General Manager Electoral Area Administration