

ANS

Please Quote Files: E3.30.15, 436901, 423703, 201001,
DAH:PAG 247801, 410901, 283701, 169501,
204401, 511201, 757701, 203101,
204101, 186201, 283601, 735603,
247801, 735601, 1131607, 401001,
403201, 404601, 482901, 979102,
283501, 962702, 816101

Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Te Tai Tokerau

Private Bag 9021
36 Water Street
WHANGAREI 0140
New Zealand

10 December 2009

Far North District Council
Private Bag 752
Kaikohe 0440

Phone: (09) 438 4639
Freephone: 0800 002 004
Environmental Hotline:
0800 504 639
Fax: (09) 438 0012
Email: mailroom@nrc.govt.nz

Dear Consent Holder

www.nrc.govt.nz

POTENTIAL WATER SHORTAGE

The National Institute of Water and Atmosphere (NIWA) climate scientists have advised that the El Niño present in the Pacific Ocean is expected to intensify and persist through to autumn of 2010. The outlook for the three month period November 2009 to January 2010 suggests that there is a reasonable risk that a significant dry period could occur over this period.

Most of Northland had already experienced below average rainfall during October, and November was very dry with the eastern areas of Northland recording very low rainfall. The central and eastern areas of Northland still remain dry and the long range forecast is for the dry weather to continue for the next two months.

Soil moistures have also dropped in response to low rainfall and the warmer temperatures.

The Northland Regional Council (NRC) encourages the people of Northland to conserve water wherever this is practicable and prepare for possible water shortages and restrictions during the summer months.

As a major water user, you may be affected by water shortages if present weather patterns continue. Therefore, in anticipation of potential water shortage, the NRC requests that:

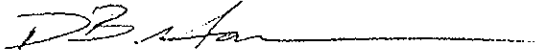
- Efforts are made to conserve water;
- Water use, stream flows, groundwater and lake levels are closely monitored in accordance with consent conditions; and
- Plans are made for possible water shortages, including alternative water supply or the instigation of water rationing plans in the coming months, if necessary to ensure compliance with consent requirements.

The NRC will continue to closely monitor rainfall, groundwater levels and stream flows around Northland and provide updates in due course. You can view information on rainfall, river levels and flows on the website at www.nrc.govt.nz/Environment/River-and-rainfall-data. The website is automatically updated every two hours to provide the most up-to-date information.

If you would like more information or have any questions, please contact your assigned NRC monitoring officer **Dale Hansen**.

Thank you for your support in caring for Northland's environment.

Yours faithfully



Dale Hansen
Water Resource/Hydrology Program Manager