ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

2023 RESULTS

COVINGTON WATER DISTRICT

PWS ID: 416508

VISION OF TOMORROW, ACTION TODAY

Dear Valued Customer,

I am very happy to report on the many accomplishments the District has made over the past year. The District continues to innovate and provide value to our customers on a daily basis. We have continued to actively contain costs, pursue grant funding for our tank replacement projects and our energy resilience needs and proactively coordinating with our local partners and agencies. We have also continued our support of the Howard Hansen Dam downstream fish passage project with our Regional Water System Supply (RWSS) Partners. Our efforts helped support Congress adding an additional $50M to the project's budget and for the first time in over 15 years, project funding in the amount of $500M was including in the President's budget for Congress to consider this coming year. Finally, there were two very important milestones the District met in this reporting period which are:

-We did not raise residential rates for the 8th straight year.

-The District retired approximately $15M in debt (related to past RWSS bonds) ten years early.

Other efforts included:

Financials – The District maintained a strong financial position because of staff's diligent work containing expenses and having very strong water sales. Additionally, the District had a budget surplus of $1M in 2023 due to the extended sunshine and dry weather experienced throughout this past summer and early fall. The State Auditor's Office completed their annual audit and found no findings related to the District's financial well-being. The District's debt to equity ratio which hovered around 50% in 2015 is now down to approximately 10%.

Infrastructure – The City of Covington's Jenkins Creek project in SE 272nd Street is wrapping up the water utility relocation work and hopefully the roadwork will be completed by the end of 2024. The 148th Avenue Watermain Extension restoration work is now complete and the District's 500 Zone now has a functional second supply to the zone (which includes Pacific Raceways). Our Tank 1 and Tank 4 projects designs are now complete and are substantially permitted. The next step is to complete the bid documents while simultaneously, the District is also pursuing a $5M FEMA grant for Tank 1.

Operations – Tacoma Water completed the cleaning and inspection of RWSS's Pipeline 5 and is now considering treatment technique changes at GRFF to reduce/eliminate the production of manganese in summer. The District's Operations Team continued to grow and expand on its technical expertise this past year. A great example was their work completing the installation of new 16" diameter water main located at the District's campus. This project will improve the hydraulic flows to the growing Downtown Covington corridor as well as improve the kW production of the District's turbine facility.

I want to say thank you for the opportunity to serve as your General Manager and that myself and staff take our commitment to serve safe, reliable water to you and our community very seriously and in the upmost professional manner. Onward and upward!

Sincerely,

Thomas Keown, P.E.
General Manager
Covington Water District

Because doing the right thing is crucial when it comes to our future's water quality.

SAFE & RELIABLE DRINKING WATER

Covington Water District is committed to providing our consumers with safe, reliable drinking water.

Our goal is to continue improving our product by implementing cost effective measures such as source and distribution system improvements that enhance reliability and produce a level of water quality that exceeds federal and state drinking water standards.

This commitment to safe and reliable drinking water combined with the investments into source and infrastructure improvements will have lasting benefits for current and future generations.

Please take time to review this report and join us in appreciating the vital role water plays in all of our lives.

RELIABLE SERVICE AND COMMITMENT TO YOU

Covington Water District is proud to present your annual Water Quality Report. This edition summarizes the results of water quality testing completed from January through December of 2023. The results contained in this report show that Covington Water District is providing safe potable water that meets or exceeds federal and state regulatory agency requirements. We hope the contents of this report are useful and informative.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the information contained in this report, please contact Glenn Stockman, Water Quality Lead at 253-867-0944 or glenn.stockman@covingtonwater.com.

Our Drinking Water Source

The District's primary supply comes from the Green River in south King County. The Green River Watershed is a 231-square-mile forested area that serves as a collection point for melting snow and seasonal rainfall in an uninhabited area of the Cascade Mountains between Chinook and Snoqualmie passes. Tacoma Water owns land along the river, which accounts for approximately 11 percent of the watershed.

Through agreements with other landowners, Tacoma limits access and carefully controls all activities within the watershed such as recreation, road maintenance and logging. Tacoma also owns and operates seven wells on the North Fork of the Green River within the watershed and takes water from those sources during periods when Green River water is unavailable due to high turbidity.

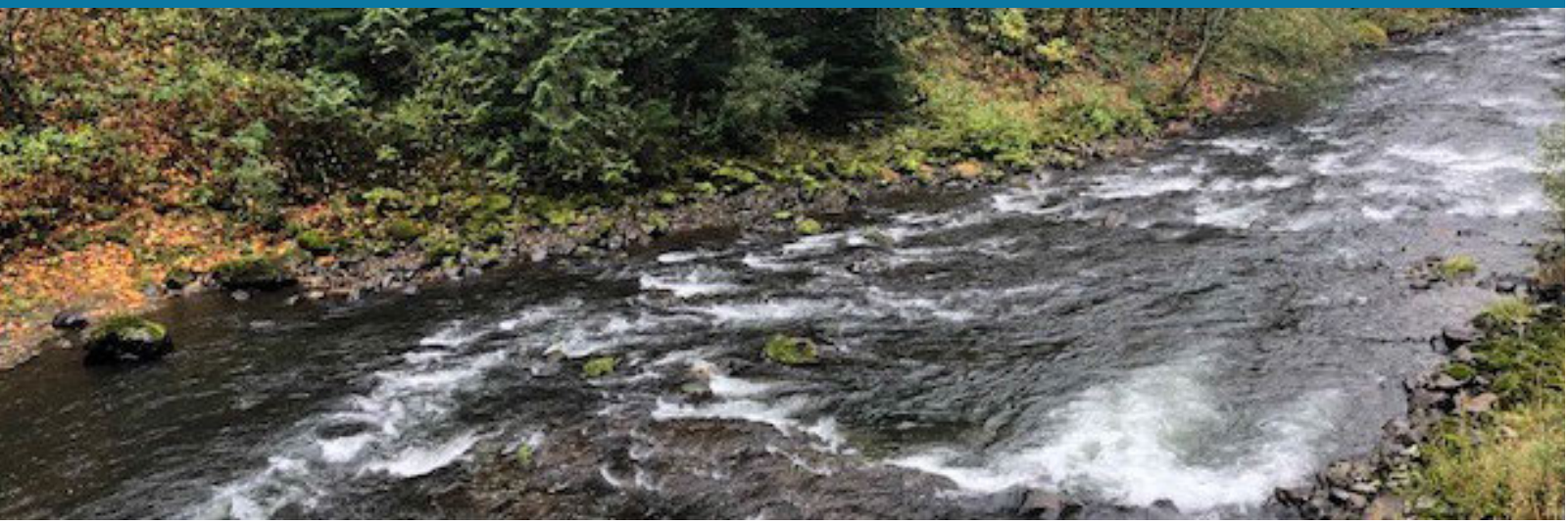
Covington Water District supplements the Green River supply, also referred to as the Regional Water Supply System (RWSS), with its own ground water sources (wells).

Partnership for the Community

In 2015, RWSS's Green River Water Supply Filtration Facility came online. The filtration facility is capable of treating up to 150 million gallons of water per day. The Green River Filtration Facility provides filtered surface water with improved reliability and water quality including:

- Protection against a broad range of contaminants, including giardia and cryptosporidium
- Improved taste, odor, and appearance of the water.
- Reduced amounts of silt and sand entering the water system.
- Minimized natural organic material, which helps reduce byproducts from the disinfection processes.

Our primary supply is from the Green River in south King County, Washington.



We work to provide clean water so you don't have to worry about it.

PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH IS OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY

Covington Water District staff strives to protect public health through extensive water quality testing. CWD's Water Treatment operator collects a total of 60 water samples per month. 15 samples are collected each week covering the entire water distribution system looking for coliform bacteria. If there is a presence of coliform bacteria in drinking water, this indicates that disease-causing organ-isms (pathogens) could be in the water system. Samples are submitted to a certified laboratory for analysis and those results are submitted to the Washington State Department of Health Office of Drinking Water.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the information contained in this report, please contact Glenn Stockman, Water Quality Lead at 253-867-0944 or glenn.stockman@covingtonwater.com.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOUR HEALTH

Inportant Information for Your Health

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline, (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, and some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule

The 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) require that once every five years, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issues a new list of no more than 30 unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems (PWS's). The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) provides EPA and other interested parties with scientifically valid data on the occurrence of contaminants in drinking water. This data serves as a primary source of occurrence and exposure information that the agency uses to develop regulatory decisions.

Minerals - Lead & Copper

Studies cited by the EPA show that ingesting lead or copper can cause health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children. Lead and copper found in drinking water usually comes from home plumbing. Some homes have higher levels than other homes. Water with a low pH can cause copper from copper pipes and lead from the solder (used to connect the pipes), to dissolve directly from pipes into the drinking water. Lead-based solder was banned in 1986, but small amounts of lead can still be found in many brass-plumbing fixtures and can slowly dissolve into water that has been left standing in pipes for longer periods of time.

Federal and state drinking water rules establish "action levels" allowable for lead and copper in water samples collected from homes. At least 90 percent of the samples collected may have no more than 0.015 milligrams of lead in one liter of water and no more than 1.3 milligrams of copper per liter. Once every 3 (three) years, the District samples 30 homes for lead and copper. The most recent sampling was completed in 2022. Results show our system is below action levels for both lead and copper (see the lead and copper results for 2022 in the Water Quality Analytical Results chart on page 9). Although we have met regulatory requirements, we will continue to monitor and adjust pH levels to reduce corrosion in pipes. We will test again in 2025 and those lead results for 2025 will be shown in the following year's (2026) Annual Drinking Water Quality Report.

Pregnant women and young children can be more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. If you have concerns about lead levels in the water at your home, have your water tested. Running water between 30 seconds and 2 minutes after it sits stagnant in the pipes for a few hours can help clean the tap and reduce the amount of lead and/or copper in your water. A change in the temperature of water will also tell you when fresh water arrives. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

HOW DO WE TREAT YOUR WATER?

Chlorine (Sodium Hypochlorite)

The District treats all ground water sources with the addition of chlorine (sodium hypochlorite) to protect against microorganisms which can cause illnesses such as typhoid, cholera, hepatitis and giardiasis.

This chlorination process is completed at the source where chlorine levels are monitored around the clock. Free chlorine residuals are also monitored throughout the water system 24/7. Chlorine is added to our water supply to act as an oxidant that destroys micoroganisms in order to help maintain your health and safety. Chlorine also reacts with natural organic material commonly found in surface water sources such as the Regional Water Supply System (RWSS). This reaction forms compounds called disinfection byproducts (DBPs). The District meets drinking water standards for two groups of disinfection byproduct compounds. Byproduct levels found in water depend primarily on:

- The amount of natural organic material in the water.
- The amount of chlorine used to treat the water.
- The amount of time it takes water to reach the customer.
- The temperature of the water.

Caustic Soda (Sodium Hydroxide)

The District treats the 222nd Well Field with sodium hydroxide to raise the pH (a measurement of acidity) of the water. This treatment makes the water less corrosive on plumbing and reduces the amount of lead and copper that can dissolve into the drinking water.

Water Quality Improvements

Active mixing devices have been installed in some of the District's storage facilities to improve water quality, eliminate stratification, reduce water age, and provide equalization of free chlorine. Proper mixing will minimize taste and odor issues and help reduce the formation of DBPs. The need for additional mixing devices is being evaluated via the District's capital improvement program. Also, filtration of the RWSS source water removes a percentage of the natural organic material. This further reduces the formation of DBPs.

Scan Here to learn more about chlorine and drinking water standards

WHAT'S IN YOUR WATER?

The results in the following table show the substances identified at the water source, at the treatment plant, and in the distribution system in 2023. The table does not include other volatile organic chemicals and synthetic organic chemicals that were tested for but not detected in our drinking water, including many industrial chemicals, herbicides and pesticides.

WATER QUALITY ANALYTICAL RESULTS

Covington Water District Water Quality Table 2023							
Regulated Substances	Unit	Year Sampled	MCL (Maximum amount allowed)	MCLG (Ideal amount or less)	Range or level Detected or # Exceed AL	Regulation Met	Potential Sources of Contaminant
Regulated at the Source							
Nitrate	ppm	2023	10 ppm	10 ppm	Highest = 0.40 ppm	YES	Natural erosion
PFOA (Perfluorooctanic Acid)	ppt	2023	10ppt	NA	Highest = 3.0 ppt	YES	Run-off or leaching from firefighting foam, industrial discharge, and landfills, wastewater treatment plants
PFOS (Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid)	ppt	2023	15 ppt	NA	Highest = 10.0 ppt	YES	Run-off or leaching from firefighting foam, industrial discharge, and landfills, wastewater treatment plants
PFHxS (Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid)	ppt	2023	65 ppt	NA	Highest = 7.2 ppt	YES	Run-off or leaching from firefighting foam, industrial discharge, and landfills, wastewater treatment plants
PFBS (Perfluorobutane Sulfonic Acid)	ppt	2023	345 ppt	NA	Highest = 13.0 ppt	YES	Run-off or leaching from firefighting foam, industrial discharge, and landfills, wastewater treatment plants
Regulated in the Distribution System							
Chlorine	ppm	2023	MRDL = 4 ppm	MRDLG = 4ppm	0.20-1.58 ppm	YES	Treatment additive
Fluoride	ppm	2023	4 ppm	4 ppm	Highest – 1.05 ppm Average - 0.61 ppm	YES	Treatment additive
Total Coliforms	%	2023	<5% Positive	0	0 Positive Samples Total Samples Collected = 720	YES	Coliforms are naturally present in the environment
Haloacetic Acids (HAA's)	ppb	2023	60 ppb	NA	Highest = 14.24 ppb LRAA 10.79-13.54 ppb	YES	Disinfection interaction
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's)	ppb	2023	80 ppb	NA	Highest = 30.46 ppb LRAA 17.48-23.01 ppb	YES	Disinfection interaction
Regulated Substances	Unit	Year Sampled	Action Level +	MCLG (Ideal amount or less)	Results*/Homes Exceeding Action Level	Regulation Met	Potential Sources of Contaminant
Regulated at the Customer's Tap							
Lead	ppb	2022	AL = 15 ppb	0	2.6 ppb*/0 of 36	YES	Household plumbing
Copper	ppm	2022	AL = 1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	.136 ppm*/0 of 36	YES	Household plumbing

* 90th Percentile: i.e., 90 percent of the samples were less than the values shown.

+ The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Acronyms

NA: Not Applicable
ND: Not Detected
NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units, measure of the clarity, or turbidity, of water.
ppm: Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb: Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCI/L: Picocuries per liter
ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

Definitions

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Action Level(AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

ADDITIONAL HEALTH RELATED INFORMATION

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is another microscopic organism commonly found in open surface water sources. Swallowing cryptosporidium can cause diarrhea, fever and other stomach and abdominal symptoms. Tacoma Water tested the Green River for cryptosporidium on a monthly basis from 2015-2017, samples were collected and analyzed using the best available method approved by the EPA. Cryptosporidium was not detected in the untreated Green River during this period. Neither Tacoma Water nor Covington Water District has had any reported instances of cryptosporidium-related health problems in their service areas.

Fluoride

Covington Water District receives a majority of its source water from the RWSS which is operated by the City of Tacoma Water staff and is treated prior to entering Covington Water District's distribution system. The addition of fluoride is completed at the RWSS Treatment Facility at a target level of 0.7 mg/L. Covington Water District consumers can expect to receive fluoride in their water at or near this level, however blending the District's secondary groundwater supplies with the RWSS supply can dilute the amount of fluoride in some locations. If you have children on fluoride supplements you may want to consult with your dentist or pediatrician about the variable fluoride concentrations that may be present in your drinking water. Please contact the District with any questions regarding the fluoride levels in your area.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS INFORMATION

All sources of water contain some amount of contaminants, including bottled water. In general, the sources for both tap and bottled water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over land or percolates through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and in some cases radioactive material. The water can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals and/or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

WHERE YOU CAN GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Covington Water District
18631 SE 300th Place
Covington, WA 98042
www.covingtonwater.com
(253) 631-0565

Water Quality Lead
(253) 867-0944
glenn.stockman@covingtonwater.com

Customer Service Department
(253) 631-0565
customer.service@covingtonwater.com

Washington State Department of Health
(253) 395-6750
www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw

United States Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/safewater
Safe Drinking Water Hotline
(800) 426-4791

The hotline and EPA website offers information about drinking water contaminants and their potential health affects as well as guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control about appropriate ways to reduce the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants. Both sources also offer information about lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure.

Covington Water District Board Meetings

Covington Water District Board meetings are regularly scheduled open public meetings held at 4:30pm, on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Visit our website for meeting information www.covingtonwater.com/35/Board

COMMISSIONERS:
Alan Eades
Kevin Fuhrer
Brad Lake
David B. Roselle
Tal Weberg

GENERAL MANAGER:
Thomas Keown, P.E.