ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

2024 RESULTS

SUGARLOAF WATER SYSTEM

PWS ID: 463168

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 as well as State and Federal agencies. We have continued our support of the Corps of Engineers (Corps) Howard Hansen Dam downstream fish passage project with our Regional Water System Supply (RWSS) Partners (Tacoma Water, City of Kent and Lakehaven Water & Sewer District). The Corps is reaching a milestone in its design. Provided $500M (which was in the 2025 Draft Budget but not approved as Congress voted instead to pass a Continuing Resolution) can be secured, they are ready to sign off/award the contract later this year.

Finally, there were three very important milestones the District met this past year which are:

- -We did not raise residential rates for the 9th straight year.
- -We are the first water utility in the United States to use ESRI's new GIS platform to create an automated distribution system shutdown tool.
- -We won best tasting treated water in the PNWS-AWWA King County Subsection for our Sugarloaf Water System.

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 in 2024. Budgeted revenues were $250,000 over budget due to the extended sunshine and dry weather we all experienced this past late 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 9%.

Infrastructure – The City of Covington's Jenkins Creek project along SE 272nd Street is now complete. Construction at our Admin Campus for our Tank 1 project will occur through the end of 2026. Design is significantly complete for the C6 Transmission Main, 164th Avenue Transmission Main, and Pressure Rezone projects. They will be bid out later this year. Finally, our Campus Resilience project is under way. This will add a second turbine and control equipment to allow the system to run autonomously, or "off the grid", without power from PSE. Final engineering and equipment procurement has begun.

Operations – Tacoma Water is still in the process of considering treatment technique changes at GRFF to reduce/eliminate the production of manganese in summer. This will be a primary focus of the District's Water System Plan update that will occur over the next 18 months. Overall, the District had no major health/water quality violations to report to DOH or our customers. The Operations Team continued to grow and expand on its technical expertise this past year. A great example was replacing some water main by Timberlane to make room for a deep sewer that the Soos Creek WSD needs to install to serve the new Lakepointe Development.

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 (CWD) is proud to present your annual Water Quality Report. This edition summarizes the results of the water quality testing completed from January through December of 2024. The results contained in this report show 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.

Sugarloaf Water System's drinking water comes from one ground water source owned and operated by Covington Water District.

Protecting Public Health is our Number One Priority

Covington Water District's Operations employees strive to protect public health through extensive water quality testing. Twice a month, CWD's Water Treatment Operator collects a water sample in the water distribution system looking for coliform bacteria. If there is a presence of coliform bacteria in drinking water, this indicates that disease-causing organisms (pathogens) could be in the water system. Samples are submitted to a independent 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.

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOUR HEALTH

Important 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).

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 samples 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 three years, we sample 5 (five) homes for lead and copper. The most recent sampling was completed in 2023 (see the lead and copper results for 2023 in the Water Quality Analytical Results chart on page 8). Results show our system at or below the action levels for both lead and copper. The next required scheduled monitoring will be completed in 2026.

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.

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 disinfenction by-products (DBPs). The need for additional mixing devices is being evaluated via the District's capital improvement program.

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.

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.

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 2024. 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.

Scan Here to learn more about chlorine and drinking water standards

CWD Sugarloaf Water System Water Quality Table 2024							
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	2024	10 ppm	10 ppm	1.72 ppm	YES	Natural erosion
Regulated in the Distribution System							
Chlorine	ppm	2024	MRDL = 4 ppm	NA	0.43-1.12 ppm	YES	Treatment additive
Total Coliforms	%	2024	5.0% of samples per month	0	0	YES	Coliforms are naturally present in the environment
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's)	ppb	2023	80 ppb	NA	2.27 ppb	YES	Disinfection interaction
Regulated Substances	Unit	Year Sampled	Action Level +	MCLG (Ideal amount or less)	Results*/Homes Exceeding Action Level	YES	Potential Sources of Contaminant
Regulated at the Customer's Tap							
Lead	ppb	2023	AL = 15 ppb	0	1.8 ppb*/0 of 5	YES	Household plumbing
Copper	ppm	2023	AL = 1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	0.884 ppm*/0 of 5	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 of 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)

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.

LEAD AND COPPER SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

As part of a nationwide effort to protect public health and improve the safety of drinking water, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) updated its Lead and Copper Rule in 2021, which led to the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR). One of the key provisions of the LCRR is the requirement for all community water systems to develop a comprehensive Lead Service Line (LSL) Inventory by October 16, 2024. In response to this federal rule, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) established a statewide initiative requiring utilities to begin this work early and submit their inventories in 2023.

Why This Matters

Lead can enter drinking water when plumbing materials that contain lead corrode, especially where the water has high acidity or low mineral content.

Exposure to lead is a serious health concern, particularly for infants and young children, and even low levels of lead in drinking water can contribute to developmental delays and other health issues. While the use of lead in plumbing was banned decades ago, older service lines and plumbing fixtures may still pose a risk in some communities.

What Was Required from Water Utilities

To meet new federal and state regulations, all public water systems in Washington—including ours—were required to complete a Lead Service Line Inventory in 2023. This was part of the EPA's updated Lead and Copper Rule, which focuses on reducing the risk of lead in drinking water.

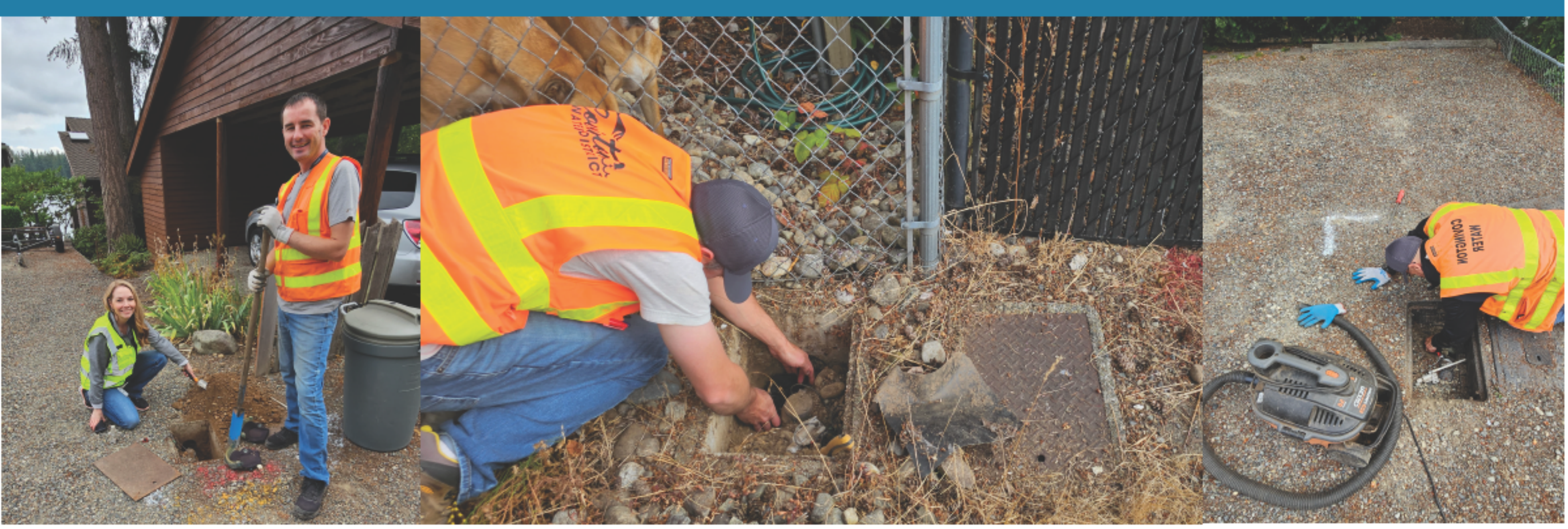
All public water systems were required to:

- Review all service lines
- Identify the pipe material by using all available information (including but not limited to: plumbing records, meter installation notes, service repair history, and visual inspections.
- Report to the State
- Make inventories available to the public

No Lead Service Lines Were Found

Our inventory confirms that all customer and utility side lines are composed of safe, lead free materials.

Staff conducting field inspections to verify service line materials at customer connections throughout our service area.



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.