



What's on Tap

Vision of Tomorrow | Action Today

18631 SE 300th Place, Covington WA 98042 * 253-631-0565 * Fax: 253-630-4825
 CovingtonWater.com General Manager: Thomas Keown

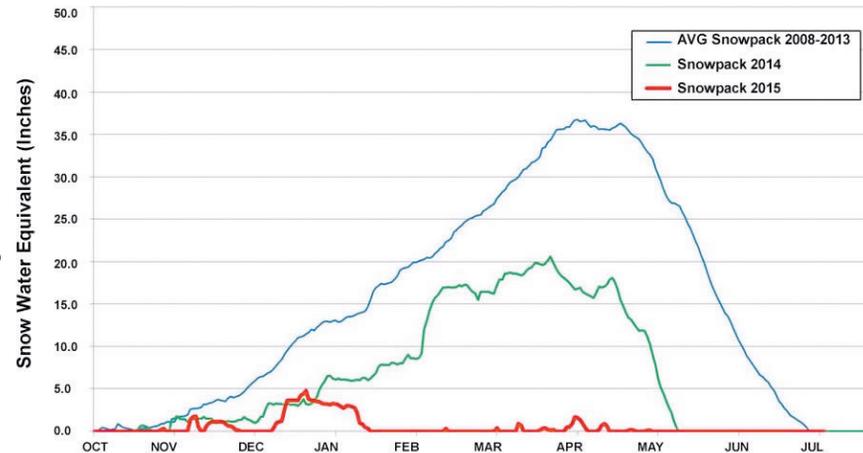
1442343

Water Supply Update

The District's primary source of water via our Regional Water Supply System partnership is the Green River, but it's not unusual to lean on our existing groundwater wells during the summer. This year, we did that earlier and to a larger extent than normal to make up for the lack of snowpack and rain.

Storage behind Howard Hanson Dam is critical to the District's water supply and refill of that storage was managed more aggressively this year to capture rain earlier in the season. The graph to the right compares the 2015 snowpack with the previous two years to show the impact due to the warm and dry conditions we have experienced. However, with this strategy the storage collected was nearly full (96% of the maximum attainable storage) by the time the spring rains stopped in April.

The storage behind Howard Hanson Dam will continue to be managed jointly with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, The Muckleshoot Tribe and resource agencies to supply drinking water in the region and supplement river flows to protect fish runs while maintaining adequate municipal water supply.



Covington Water District, a Special Purpose District



The North Fork of the Green River in July 1

The Covington Water District is a special purpose district organized under Title 57 of the Revised Code of Washington. Special purpose districts are units of local government that provide distinct, rather than general purpose, governmental services within designated boundaries. Unlike cities and counties, which have a wide range of functions and more general purpose powers and authority, special purpose districts have only specific and limited powers to carry out their services.

CWD is governed by an elected board of five commissioners, serving staggered six-year terms. The Board is granted authority under the law specifically tailored to the overall operation of the water utility, including the power to set rates, build infrastructure, enter into contracts and acquire land for public purposes through condemnation proceedings. We

are also subject to many of the laws that apply to other agencies of government, including: the open public meetings act, the public records act, competitive bid laws, state environmental policy act, and the constitutional limitation on the use of public funds for private purposes. Like other agencies, we are audited annually by the State Auditor and are subject to the rules of the Government Accounting Standards Board.

Cities and counties derive a large portion of their revenues from taxes. Because we do not have the authority to tax, all of the revenues needed to meet operating expenses, such as to pay salaries and make loan payments, as well as to fund capital improvement projects that expand and improve the water and sewer systems, are necessarily funded out of our rates and capital facilities charges. Forecasting revenues tends to be more of a challenge with a water utility. Water consumption has been trending down for many years, thanks to efficiency changes in household plumbing and appliances and the conservation efforts of customers, and tends to fluctuate from year to year. Beyond the effects of conservation, the primary variable is the weather. As you can well imagine, having a hot or cold summer can play a large part in overall water consumption for a given year.

Beyond the background information, the central and most important point we want to make in discussing the District is that it is yours. Yes you, the CWD customers, are the true owners of the utility systems we operate! This belief comes from the fact that you bought the system through your connection charges and you pay for its operation through your rates. In line with this view, each ratepayer owns the pipes, pump stations, storage tanks, treatment plants, trucks, computers and all the other facilities and equipment that are needed to operate the district. The District's elected officials, managers and staff are responsible to represent your best interests and to make sure that rates are fair, while sufficient to cover the needs of the District for the long term. We also need to make sure that we operate the water system efficiently and safely while meeting all applicable environmental and federal regulations. Most of all, we need to treat all of our customers with compassion and respect.

We are here to serve you, our owners, and if you see something we can do better, please let us know.

Bottled Water vs. Tap Water for Best Value

We know the importance of drinking water. It is an in-dispensable aid to digestion, nutrient absorption and waste-elimination. It also helps regulate circulation, body temperature and a host of other biochemical reactions. Water lubricates joints and maintains healthy skin. It's worth remembering that we can exist without food for months, but without water for only a few days.



- Many people find the most convenient way to make sure they drink enough water is to buy bottled water. The 1/2-liter bottles are perfect for walking, driving, watching TV, reading a book, etc...
- However, many are looking for ways to trim spending. How much money could you save per year if you filled your water bottle from the faucet instead? Let's do the math.
- Bottled water advertised on-line from a major warehouse store costs \$6.99 for a case of twenty-four 1/2 -liter bottles.
- 1/2 liter = 16.9 oz. A case of bottles equals 405.6 ounces. Divide the price of the water by the number of ounces to get the price per ounce, which is approximately .017 cents per ounce. A gallon contains 128 ounces. Then multiply 128 ounces times .017 cents and the total is \$2.18 per gallon.
- Most people drink half that amount each day, so you will spend \$1.09 a day on bottled water. Multiply that by 365 days and you will spend \$397.85 per person per year on bottled water.
- The cost of bottled water is more than 500 times more expensive than tap water. By filling a stainless steel water bottle from the tap, the savings is nearly \$400.00 per person per year. Let's not forget that the production, packaging and shipping of bottled water consumes enormous amounts of resources and produces up to 1.5 million tons of plastic waste per year.

If you're looking for a way to save money while being environmentally friendly, filling a re-useable water bottle with tap water is an easy place to start.

Green River Filtration Facility Completion Celebration

The Green River Filtration Treatment Project near the Howard Hansen Dam was completed in January 2015, the formal ribbon cutting ceremony was held on May 4, 2015. This 3 year project was completed on time and under budget by \$30 million. CWD is a 19% partner in RWSS (Regional Water Supply System), the other partners are: Tacoma, Kent and Lakehaven Utility District.



CWD is a 19% partner in RWSS