



What's on Tap

Vision of Tomorrow | Action Today

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CovingtonWater.com General Manager: Thomas Keown

District Hires New General Manager

Following the retirement of Gwenn Maxfield, the Board of Water Commissioners appointed Thomas Keown as the District's General Manager. He assumed the helm on February 2, 2015.

For the District, among his many duties, Tom is focusing on the following priorities: promoting growth of the District with developers and local agencies, utilizing advanced technology to improve service delivery and customer satisfaction, developing the workforce to meet new technological skills needed in the utility, and developing business models based on the USEPA infrastructure management framework so the District can continue to provide reliable service for current customers as well as for generations to come.

Tom received his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Seattle University. He is a licensed professional engineer in the State of Washington with over 20 years of experience ranging from management, planning and design work both as a utility manager and as a consultant. Before coming to the District, Tom was a management consultant with a focus on optimization of utility's capital and O&M expenditures. Tom is active in several professional water and engineering related organizations such as AWWA, Engineers Without Borders and Water For People. He is married with three children and his private interests including rooting for the Seahawks, travel and exploring nature.

Welcome, Tom!



Green River Filtration Treatment Is On-Line

Beginning January 9, 2015 filtered water from the Green River is being supplied to the Regional Water Supply System (RWSS)! Covington Water District, along with partners Tacoma, Kent and Lakehaven Utility District, have completed a monumental project to construct a water treatment facility near Howard Hansen Dam on the Green River. The facility now delivers filtered surface water to communities in the south sound area.

Treatment of surface water supplies was mandated by EPA for removal of organic contaminants and the filtration option was chosen by the partners to gain the benefit of removal of sediments, as well. Covington Water District serves the City of Covington, southern parts of Maple Valley, the Lake Sawyer area of Black Diamond and unincorporated King County south to the Green River. Residents will likely begin to notice a change in the taste of their water and improved appearance for color and clarity.



In the past, there were seasonal changes in color and occasions where sediments would be "stirred up" in the system as a result of high flows. Filtration will keep these sediments from accumulating in the water system and periodic flushing will remove those that have accumulated to date. The Green River Filtration Facility produces an abundant and very high quality water supply to Covington Water users. The RWSS is the District's principal source of water.

The project was completed over the last 3 years at a total cost of nearly \$185M and 700,000 hours of labor by contractors. Performance testing is complete and commissioning is occurring during January. A formal ribbon cutting for the facility is being planned for May 4, 2015.

Washington State Department of Health Conducts Sanitary Survey at the District

The Department of Health (DOH) routinely conducts a sanitary survey of each state approved public water system on a revolving basis at least once every three years. A sanitary survey is a periodic inspection of water system facilities, operations and records, which is used to identify conditions that may present a sanitary public health risk. Comprehensive sanitary surveys are important practices, which help water systems protect public health by supplying water to their customers that meet or exceed water quality regulations. They are conducted to evaluate:

1. The capability of a drinking water system to consistently and reliably deliver an adequate

quality and quantity of safe drinking water to the consumer.

2. The system's compliance with federal and state drinking water regulations.
3. Deficiencies that may create risks of water contamination.

A DOH sanitary survey was conducted at the District on October 28, 2014 and focused on water sources and treatment facilities. We are proud to announce that no significant deficiencies or issues were observed, with the DOH representative noting a very positive impression of the level of professionalism exhibited by staff.

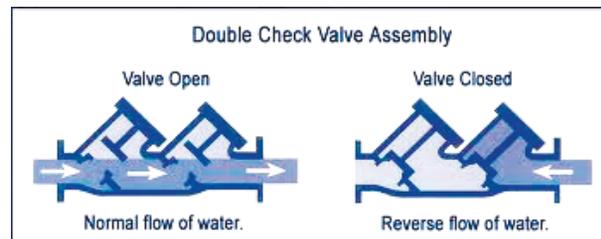
It is the District's primary goal to provide our customers with consistent, reliable and safe drinking water and to do so in a fiscally responsible manner. It is apparent that in the eyes of our regulating agency, DOH, that we are doing a good job.

Cross-Connections – What Are They and Why Do We Care?

A cross connection is defined as any actual or potential physical connection between a public water system or the consumer's water system and any source of non-potable liquid, solid, or gas that could contaminate the potable water supply by backflow. Cross connections may exist in any plumbing system. Cross connections may also exist in the purveyor's water system facilities.

A cross-connection occurs whenever a potable drinking water line is directly or indirectly linked with a non-potable piece of equipment or piping. Examples of non-potable equipment typically found in a business include dishwashers, wash basins, service sinks, beverage dispensing machines, cooling towers, heat exchangers, ice makers, irrigation systems, fire sprinkler systems, decorative ponds, X-ray equipment, medical/laboratory aspirators, photo processing equipment, etc.

Pollutants or contaminants may enter the drinking water system through uncontrolled cross-connections when backflow occurs. Backflow is the unwanted flow of non-potable



substances back into the consumer's plumbing system and/or public water system. Backflow, in the form of back-siphonage or back-pressure is caused by a negative pressure in the supply line, which may occur when a water main breaks or during firefighting when drawing a large amount of water through fire hydrants.

Most water systems in the United States and Canada have good sources of water and/or sophisticated treatment plants to convert impure water to meet rigid drinking water standards. Millions of dollars are spent to make the water potable before it enters public water distribution systems. However, once it reaches the distribution system drinking water can become polluted or contaminated through uncontrolled cross-connections.

There are numerous well-documented cases across the country where drinking water has been contaminated via

unprotected cross connections. These cases have caused instances of illness, injury, and in some cases, death, to consumers served by a water system.

The task of eliminating all cross connections can be enormous. As a result, Covington Water District has implemented a strong Cross-Connection Control Program (CCCP), as required by Washington Administrative Code 246-290-490. The District's CCCP requires its customers to:

- Install a backflow assembly if there is an existing or potential cross-connection.
- Have the backflow assembly tested annually after installation, thereafter, and/or if the assembly is moved or repaired.
- Have the assembly tested by a state certified Backflow Assembly Tester and send the initial and annual test reports to the District.
- Repair backflow assemblies when they are not working properly.

As a reminder, all annual backflow assembly test reports are due to the District by June 30th of each year. If you are a customer with a cross-connection control device, you will be receiving notices in March and early June reminding you to test your backflow assembly(s).