



# What's on Tap

Vision of Tomorrow | Action Today

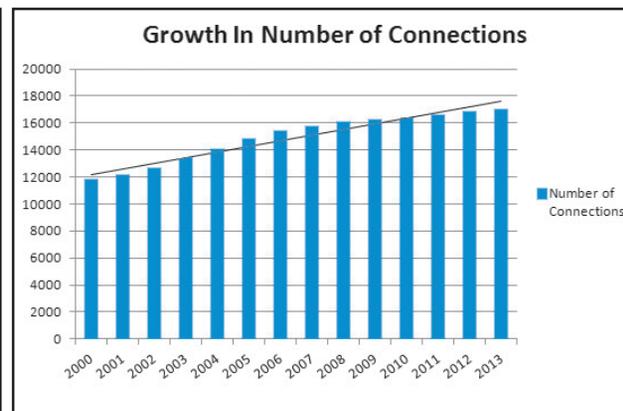
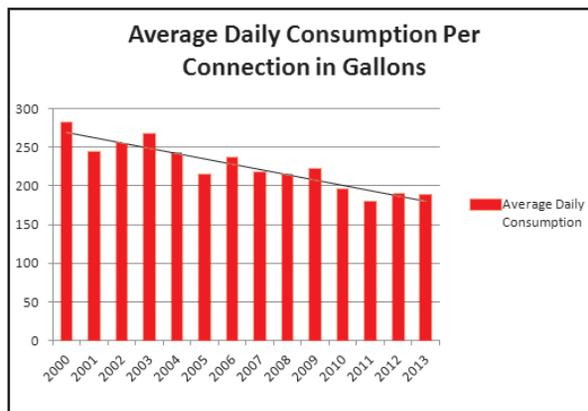
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## Reliable water source

Water utilities deliver reliable, safe drinking water 24 / 7 / 365. All utilities are regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency and state Departments of Health to ensure that health standards are fully implemented for the safety and welfare of customers. In addition, utilities develop, design and construct water supply sources, distribution main and treatment facilities to meet this mission.

Covington Water District's history provides an illustration of how utilities evolve to meet an expanding population base and increasing regulatory requirements.

- **1960** - District formed to provide water to homes in the Lake Morton area. Groundwater supplies were District's sole source of water.
- **1989** - Signed the South King County Coordinated Water System Plan which established boundaries to clarify service areas and prevent future confusion and conflict for water service.
- **1991** - Growth Management planning in Washington State resulted in an urban growth area designation for Covington, Maple Valley and Black Diamond.
- **1994** - District declared a water moratorium until additional supply sources could be obtained as rapid growth pressed the limits of approved water supply sources.
- **1995** - District began chlorinating its water.



- **1997** - Through a variety of channels, including agreements with Auburn, Seattle and Tacoma, the District lifted the moratorium.
- **1997** - Covington and Maple Valley incorporated as cities.
- **1999** - District joins Cascade Water Alliance (Cascade) as a future back-up source of water.
- **2002** - District signed a partnership agreement with Tacoma to receive water from the Howard Hansen regional water supply (RWSS).
- **2005** - First water received from RWSS surface water supply.
- **2010** - District completes a strategic supply plan projecting its existing supply sources will meet demand

until 2080 and beyond, given population growth, consumption rates and available supply.

- **2012** - District withdraws from Cascade given the results of strategic supply planning. Resulting savings assist in managing rate requirements.
- **2015** - Date by which the RWSS surface water source will be treated, as mandated by EPA. The RWSS partners elected to filter the surface water supply coming from the Green River.

As related above the District has had to respond to a variety of challenges to provide a reliable delivery of water. Safe drinking water delivery is monitored 24 hours a day year around to make sure customers have access to this necessary commodity. Enjoy and please use it wisely!

## CWD Exercises to Prepare for Emergencies

Public water systems must prepare to maintain their critical services under all-hazard conditions. Preparedness is essential for effective incident and emergency management and recovery. The District is engaged in a continuous cycle of planning, training, exercise, equipping, organizing, evaluating and taking corrective actions to achieve and maintain readiness to respond to, and reduce the impacts of emergencies.

In November and December of 2013, the District exercised its response to intentional and accidental water contamination incidents. All District staff was involved in the exercises with the goal of practicing and executing a unified and coordinated response to a contamination incident.

One of the most important aspects of responding to a water contamination incident, whether it is an accidental contamination, due, for example, to a backflow of contaminated liquids through a cross-connection, or an intentional contamination instigated by an individual or group, is to notify our customers as soon as possible. If such a contamination incident were to occur, the District would notify its customers by all available means including mass calls, social media, multimedia, door-to-door (if feasible), signs, and banners.

Notifications or Drinking Water Advisories are issued when a public water system knows or believes that water quality is compromised. These advisories let individuals, schools, hospitals, businesses and others know about the situation and how to take immediate and appropriate action. The advisories may be precautionary in nature, when they are issued as a protective measure, or mandatory, which are issued as required by state and federal law to protect public health. Different types of advisories may be issued depending upon the type and severity of the contamination.

**Informational** - These advisories communicate planned or anticipated changes in water quality and provide advice on appropriate action.

**Boil Water** - Although Boil Water advisories seldom occur, they are still the most common type of advisory. They may be precautionary or mandatory as required. Boil water advisories typically are issued because of concern about microbial contamination.

**Do Not Drink** - Informs customers to use an alternative source of water. Do Not Drink advisories are usually due to chemical contamination.

**Do Not Use** - Informs customers that they cannot use tap water for any purpose, including fire protection, flushing toilets and bathing. Do Not Use advisories are typically used only in cases of known microbial, chemical or radiological contamination when contact with the skin, lungs or eyes can be dangerous. Such advisories are rare because of the risks associated with the lack of water for sanitation and fire protection.

Regardless of how much the District prepares for emergencies, prevention is not possible. Staff can prepare to mitigate or minimize the impacts of these incidents, but no one can predict all the potential scenarios. You can help the District be the most efficient in getting timely and important information to out to our customers by providing the District your contact information (phone number, email address, etc.) You may visit the District's website at [covingtonwater.com](http://covingtonwater.com) for more information about Drinking Water Advisories and to leave your contact information.

## Preparing for Emergencies



### Update Your Contact Information

You can update your contact information by:

- Call the District office: 253-631-0565
- Email the District at: [frontdesk@covingtonwater.com](mailto:frontdesk@covingtonwater.com)
- Visit our website: [www.covingtonwater.com](http://www.covingtonwater.com)

Having current contact information will allow us to reach you in the event of an emergency.

