



# What's on Tap

Vision of Tomorrow | Action Today

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## Holiday Closures

Due to Christmas and New Year's Holidays falling on the weekend, the District offices will be closed for the Christmas Holiday (December 23 and 26), New Year's Day (January 2) and Martin Luther King Day (January 16)



## No Water Rate Increases for 2017

The Covington Water District 2017 projected revenue flow provides a positive cash basis to continue reliable delivery of safe, potable water to our customers. The overall operational budget was reduced due to a thorough review of past expenditures, has no additional FTE staffing demands compared to recent years, yet will still allow the District to maintain its infrastructure and allow staff to provide excellent service to our customers.

The proposed budget contains:

- No water rate increase for 2017.
- Includes the elimination of the top tier water rate.
- 2017-2022 CIP Budget Costs are reduced by \$8.9M
- Cost-of-living wage adjustment of 2.0%.
- Line-item decrease of \$160,283 for operational expenses.
- Integrates Water District #111 wholesale agreement into revenue projections
- Projects \$1.6M in facility connection charge collection
- Overall 2017 water revenue requirement of \$11.9M

There is still substantial work that remains to be completed by the District in 2017! This includes the design for the replacement of existing Tanks 1A/1B to provide for future growth and ensure the new tank complies with current seismic standards. Also included is the design/construction of the transmission pipeline from a new master tap off of Tacoma Water's regional line to the new tank, support of the on-going capital needs of our Partnership with Tacoma Water and collaboration on capital projects lead by the cities of Covington and Maple Valley. Other programmatic efforts include further development of the District's asset management program and setting/assessing performance benchmarks to make the District more effective/efficient in delivery of our services, on-going emergency response planning and continued improvement of relationships with our local agencies.



## Contributing To Our Local Community

This holiday season Covington Water District held activities that provided employees and our customers an opportunity to give back to the communities we serve and reside in.

During the month of November, Tom the Turkey was placed in the District lobby as a drop off point for employees and customers to bring food donations

and checks for the Maple Valley Food Bank. To promote additional participation internally the District held a raffle for donations to the event to win a Seahawks sign prize purchased by members of the management team. Notices of the event were sent out in customer bills and posted on our website. Everyone got into the spirit of giving and bag after bag of groceries and several checks made out to the food bank were collected.

The month of December and the cooling weather had us planning an outerwear

clothing drive for kids in need. Employees and customers are able to drop off new hats, gloves, scarves and coats to help keep kids warm. This event was promoted via our billings and external website. Employees also got into the spirit of giving by participating.

We thank all of our generous customers and employees for participating in this event. On behalf of the employees of Covington Water District we wish you and yours a happy holiday season!

## Updating Your Contact Information

*It's Not Just About Your Bill!*

We encourage our customers to keep their contact information updated with the District whether it is an updated cell phone number, a new email address or a landline phone number change. This information is used to communicate with our customers in more ways than for delinquent billing issues.

Emergencies aren't confined to earthquakes but can also be related to winter storms and/or flooding as an example. Along with having an emergency preparedness kit and plan, it is recommended that you sign up for **ALERT King County**. You can elect to have messages sent to your cell phone via a text or a message emailed to you. You also have an option to have Emergency and/or General Notifications delivered to you.

**ALERT King County** is a regional public information and notification service offered by King County Emergency Management. **ALERT King**



**County** helps you stay informed about potential hazards and threats that impact your area.

Register your physical

address(es), email address(es), and phone number(s) to receive important safety information during an emergency. Sign-up is **free** at [www.kingcounty.gov/depts/emergency-management/alert-king-county](http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/emergency-management/alert-king-county). There is also an App that you can download to your smartphone titled: CodeRED Mobile Alert.

Covington Water District is in the process of partnering with King County to utilize this tool in the future to communicate with its customers, we encourage you to keep your contact information updated with the District at all times, you can provide us your current cell phone numbers and email addresses at any time by calling the District at 253-631-0565 or sending us an email to: [frontdesk@covingtonwater.com](mailto:frontdesk@covingtonwater.com).

## Water Pressure: The Highs & Lows

Ever wonder what the water pressure is at your property? Is it too high? Too low? Just right? The 2015 Uniform Plumbing Code states that water pressure above 80 pounds per square inch (psi) is too high, and water pressure below 15 psi is too low.

What controls the water pressure supplying my property?

In general, Covington Water District is considered a gravity fed system. Meaning, water is pumped to the top of large storage tanks strategically

located at the highest elevations within the District's service area. The elevated water provides steady downward "pressure" to the distribution system (water mains, fire hydrants, and water meters).

The water pressure supplying your property is based on where you are in relationship to the storage tanks. For example, a property located at the top of a hill next to a 100' tall storage tank has approximately 40 psi. A property located 200' lower at the bottom of the hill has approximately 130 psi.

How do I measure my water pressure?

Pictured is a water pressure gauge used to measure psi. When measuring pressure, make sure everything is off in the house (static condition), securely screw the pressure gauge to the hose bib, then turn on the hose bib and read the needle. These gauges along with hose bib connection fittings are sold at most hardware stores.



What if my water pressure is too high?

A pressure reducing valve or pressure regulator can be installed within your plumbing system to reduce your pressure below 80 psi. Most licensed

plumbers can perform this work, or for the do-it-yourselfers most hardware stores carry pressure reducing valves.

What if my water pressure is too low?

The District strives to meet the American Water Works Association guideline of providing 30 psi at every water meter. If you measure your water pressure below 30 psi please contact the District at 253-631-0565 so we can look into the situation.

Questions?

Customers are encouraged to call the District at 253-631-0565 if you have questions regarding the water pressure supplying your property.