



What's on Tap

Vision of Tomorrow | Action Today

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Wholesale Water Agreement with King County Water District 111 (KCWD #111)

In 2015, the Covington Water District (CWD) and KCWD #111 began negotiating a long-term (40 year) agreement for CWD to provide KCWD #111 a portion of their water supply needs. Upon review, discussion and mutual acceptance, the wholesale contract was signed at the end of 2015 by each utility's respective Board of Commissioners. The contract would go into effect in January 2017, as there were necessary infrastructure improvements that needed to be made to make this happen.

The signing of the contract was just the start of the hard work! KCWD #111 had to work on acquiring property and installing a new master meter. CWD staff supported the effort by helping clean and purify an existing water transmission main that used to allow CWD to take water from the City of Auburn prior to CWD becoming a partner in Tacoma Water's Regional Water Supply System.

The level of effort sped up significantly in late 2016 and by early January 2017, safe, reliable water was flowing from CWD to KCWD #111. The effort showcased local agencies working together on a common goal for the good of our respective ratepayers.

So what are those benefits? KCWD #111's ratepayers now have access to a long-term water supply. The negotiated charges and on-going fees will be at reduced rates compared to other options available to KCWD #111. For CWD customers, spreading the cost of expenses over a wider base of customers helps reduce costs and minimizes the magnitude of future rate increases. It was a significant reason that CWD was able to forgo a rate increase in 2017.

CWD appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with KCWD #111 and looks forward to our long-term relationship that mutually benefits our respective ratepayers.



What's That Going Up? Development News within Covington Water District

You see it - the new homes and commercial buildings going up.

Regularly, developers, residents, businesses, and municipalities find they have a need for public water and work with us to connect to the Covington Water District's (CWD) system. The distribution and treatment of potable water to homes, businesses and fire protection systems require the proper functioning of many infrastructure assets CWD continues to invest in. These investments are critical in continuing to provide reliable, quality services to our community.

Currently, large commercial developments that are in progress include the Covington Retail development on Covington Way SE and Tahoma High School in Maple Valley with both anticipated to open in 2017. There are 4-6 other commercial projects slated to begin and/or be completed in 2017. As far as residential development goes, approximately 270 residential lots are available for immediate building permits with an additional 396 lots under development.

CWD staff continues to work hard to keep your water running and clean. We also look for ways to improve our service to you. CWD's future capital projects for Tank 1 and Tank 1's new C4 Tacoma tap/pipeline coupled with past investments with the Regional Water Supply System (RWSS) prepares us well for upcoming or new developments. Another example includes CWD staff working with contractors during the night to complete these infrastructure projects. This helps minimize the impact of water shut downs and reduces traffic in commercial business areas during the day.

Covington Water District provides water service to over 45,000 residential, commercial, industrial and irrigation customers throughout our 55-mile service territory, using approximately 12 production wells, 4 treatment plants, emergency interties with two neighboring agencies, 20.6 million gallons of storage tanks and approximately 305 miles of pipeline.

Backflow Prevention: Protecting Water, Protecting Yourself

For potable water, life is a series of one-way streets. Safe drinking water depends on all "traffic" within a water system to move from source to use. Normally, fresh drinking water flows one way. It isn't supposed to turn around and travel in the other direction.

In a perfect world, the flow of water would always follow the rules. But in reality, there are several situations that can cause backflow, such as a broken water main pipe. Backflow is an accidental and unwanted reversal in the flow of water within a piping system. When this happens, any contaminants within the piping system can flow back into the source of fresh water, which could mix with drinking water and potentially contaminate the water supply.

Consider this example: A home irrigation system with below ground sprinklers is running as usual when a neighborhood water main is damaged during road construction. Suddenly, the pressure that keeps potable water flowing into the system is gone and the water flow changes directions. Water from the irrigation system flows backward taking with it any pesticides, fertilizer, or animal waste that it may have come in contact with. This contaminated

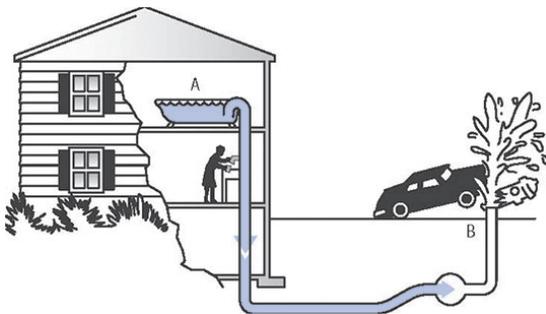
water can then mix with the potable water supply potentially making the homeowner and his neighbors sick.

The danger of this kind of contamination exists wherever there is a "cross-connection" or link between potable and non-potable water.

This is where backflow prevention comes in. Appropriate backflow prevention devices keep non-potable water from flowing backward toward the potable water supply.

The District requires all cross-connections to be protected by customer installed backflow prevention assemblies

and be tested on an annual basis before July 31st of each year. For more information about cross-connections and backflow prevention assemblies, please see the District's website at covingtonwater.com or contact the District's Cross-Connection Control Specialist at 253-867-0944.



Call Before You Dig

Want to avoid spending a day in the dark? It's as simple as 8-1-1.

Dial 811 from anywhere in the country a few days prior to digging, and your call will be routed to your local One Call Center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig, what type of work you will be doing and your affected local utilities companies will be notified about your intent to dig. In a few days, they'll send a locator to mark the approximate location of your underground lines, pipes and cables, so you'll know what's below - and be able to dig safely.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.