



# What's on Tap

Vision of Tomorrow | Action Today

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## Covington Water District Invests in Hydropower

In the Pacific Northwest we are fortunate to have access to cheap and clean hydropower. While most of our power comes from large dam projects, the District has been intrigued with capturing smaller energy amounts (called Micro Hydro) that would otherwise be wasted as it moves through pipes, water treatment facilities and other systems.

The District is in the process of completing a long-term project that will provide an additional meter tap and transmission supply line off of Tacoma Water's Pipeline 5 via the Regional Water Supply System (RWSS). While in the past, valves would have been used to reduce the pressure and regulate the flow of the water, the District looked to harvest the potential energy in the water by instead using a turbine to accomplish the same task. Instead of waste noise/heat, the turbine will produce electricity that will be used to offset the power demand of the adjacent Administrative Building and also to power electric vehicles in the future.

The District also proactively applied for and was awarded a \$79,447 grant from the state Department of Commerce. This will help offset the capital cost of the turbine (\$376,000) and allow for the return on the investment to be closer to 10 years, instead of 20 years. Also, space was set aside to allow an additional turbine to be added in the future as the water demand of the District increases. Eventually, the District will become a net producer of energy from what would have been wasted using typical design standards in place at this time.

For more information on our accomplishments, rates and budget, please visit our website at [www.covingtonwater.com](http://www.covingtonwater.com).



Turbine and controls are housed in this building.



GC Systems' technician performing control valve start up.

## Summer Water Supply Update

The Covington Water District (District) is pleased to report that our water supply was sufficient for people and fish through the summer of 2018. This is possible in part to the District's Regional Water Supply System (RWSS) partnership with Tacoma Water, the City of Kent and the Lakehaven Water and Sewer District. The District is in a strong position even with the National Weather Service shifting their weather neutral prediction with the current prediction of El Niño weather patterns for the upcoming fall and winter.

El Niño traditionally favors a slightly warmer and drier conditions for the Pacific Northwest. Because of the shift in predictions, the District and our RWSS partners will be monitoring these conditions closely.

El Niño and La Niña are opposite phases of what is known as the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle. The ENSO cycle is a scientific term that describes the fluctuations in temperature between the ocean and atmosphere in the east-central Equatorial Pacific (approximately between the International Date Line and 120 degrees West). La Niña is sometimes referred to as the cold phase of ENSO and El Niño as the warm phase of ENSO. These deviations from normal surface temperatures can have large-scale impacts not only on ocean processes, but also on global weather and climate. El Niño and La Niña episodes typically last nine to 12 months, but some prolonged events may last for years. While their frequency can be quite irregular, El Niño and La Niña events occur on average every two to seven years. Typically, El Niño occurs more frequently than La Niña.

While the District continues to monitor these ENSO conditions, we encourage all of our customers to use water wisely. More information and tips on how to conserve water can be found on our website at: [www.covingtonwater.com/160/Conservation](http://www.covingtonwater.com/160/Conservation)

## Preparing Your Yard for Winter

The best thing you can do for your yard is to prepare it for spring now before winter arrives. The following is a list of tasks that are commonly recommended before winter sets in.

### Yard Care

- Prune shrubs in late fall, after a couple of frosts. Wait to prune trees until after they have gone dormant.
- Harvest all fruit from trees to prevent them rotting and attracting pests and diseases.
- Apply mulch and the appropriate fertilizer to plants to promote root growth.
- Consider planting new trees and shrubs, they will have a chance to become established before the heat of the summer. Some bulbs are best planted in the fall.
- Remove diseased or dead branches and trees before they become a problem.
- Rake up leaves and dead grass to prevent buildup that can suffocate the grass and prevent growth.
- Over seeding, aerating and fertilizing the lawn before winter can encourage a healthy yard in spring.
- Winterize sprinkler systems.



Remove weeds as they can survive the winter.

### Garden Care

- Remove vegetables and annuals that are done for the season. Leaving them in the ground can encourage pests and disease.
- Remove weeds as they can survive the winter and go to seed in the spring.
- Apply mulch on garden beds and shrubs. This will help the soil hold in heat and moisture and prevent weeds.
- Save time in the spring by preparing your garden beds now. You can add compost and manure that can work into the soil during the winter.

## Emergency Preparedness Fair – Covington Water District Participation

September is National Preparedness Month. As a public water system, Covington Water District (CWD) must prepare to maintain our 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, and reduce the impacts of emergencies.

Disasters don't plan ahead. You can plan ahead for your family. A little preparation now can save a lot of discomfort during a disaster. Get tips and information by visiting <https://www.ready.gov/>.

The District will be participating again this year at the Community Emergency Preparedness Fair happening on Saturday, September 29, 2018 between 9 am – 2 pm. Last year, we handed out 5 gallon water jugs that can be used to store emergency water. Please join us there to learn more about the region's goals for hazards and events that may impact our area. This event is an important organizational step between our volunteers, neighboring communities and local partners who are interested in taking an active role in emergency preparedness planning. The fair will be located at the Rock Creek Elementary School Gym and Parking Lot at 25700 Maple Valley Black Diamond Road SE co-located with the Maple Valley Farmers' Market.

Stop by our booth and visit our utility vehicles while you're there. The District along with our utility partners will have some giveaways!

Emergencies can happen at any time to anyone.

## ARE YOU READY?

**NOW** is the time to prepare. **JOIN** us at the annual

### COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FAIR 2018

**Saturday, September 29, 2018 | 9 am – 2 pm**  
Rock Creek Elementary School Gym and Parking Lot  
25700 Maple Valley Black Diamond Road SE  
Co-located with the Maple Valley Farmers' Market

- Emergency Response Vehicles
- Utility District Vehicles
- Preparedness Demonstrations
- Informational Displays
- Vendors and More!

The Maple Valley Food Bank will be at the Fair and will accept non-perishable food items. Please support your community and stop by the Food Bank booth!

Sponsored by the City of Maple Valley, the City of Covington, the City of Black Diamond, Tallahassee School District, King County Sheriff's Office, Maple Valley Fire & Life Safety, Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority, Maple Valley CERT and ARRS, Rock Creek Water and Sewer, Cedar River Water and Sewer District, Covington Water District, Maple Valley Farmer's Market, Maple Valley Black Diamond Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Maple Valley Community Center.



## The District will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

- Monday, November 12th, Veteran's Day
- Thursday and Friday, November 22nd and 23rd, Thanksgiving Holiday
- Monday & Tuesday, December 24th & 25th, Christmas Holiday
- Tuesday, January 1st, New Year's Day