SHORELINE
Water District

Excellence in Water Quality for 80 Years

SHORELINE WAVES

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A newsletter for water-related issues and info
serving the cities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park since 1931

From Our President

by Ron Ricker

In this newsletter, Shoreline Water District proudly presents our fourteenth annual drinking Water Report. We distribute this information annually as per federal and state regulations, in order to describe the source and quality of our drinking water, and compare it to federal water quality standards, with the goal of helping you understand how your water is treated and monitored. As part of our commitment to keep you informed and educated about water issues, we will continue to update this report in response to new federal and state requirements. Your water is a valuable resource—it protects public health, provides fire protection, and contributes to economic development and quality of life. Conservation of this precious resource is key: we'd like to formally congratulate Kings Elementary School (pictured in the above photo) for top honors in water conservation awareness during our Fix-A-Leak Week Contest. If you have questions or comments on this report, or how the District can serve you better, please let us know. Sincerely,

Celebrate Shoreline with Us!

Mark your calendars for Saturday August 18—the official date of Shoreline's annual birthday party, packed with all sorts of community activities including sports events, a car show, live music, the festival at Ridgecrest School, and of course the annual Parade (recognize that float from last year?)

The Shoreline Waves Newsletter is brought to you by Shoreline Water District, and its Board of Commissioners:
Ron Ricker (President), Larry Schoonmaker (Vice President), and Charlotte Haines (Secretary).
Feel free to contact us at PO Box 55367, 1519 NE 177th Street, Shoreline, WA 98155
(206) 362-8100 • www.shorelinewater.org

Annual Water Quality Report for 2011

Shoreline Water District continues to maintain state and federal water quality guidelines that are significantly below EPA maximum levels.

All About Your Water

Who: Your drinking water is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), who sets drinking water quality standards, establishes testing methods and monitoring requirements for water utilities, sets maximum levels for water contaminants, and requires utilities to give public notice whenever a violation occurs. Your drinking water is tested frequently both by Shoreline Water District and Seattle Public Utilities, our supplier, to ensure that high quality water is delivered to your home.

What: Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

When: Your water is continuously monitored 365 days a year.

Where: Your water comes from the Tolt Watershed. The District also installed an emergency intertie with the Cedar River Transmission Main. While it is not a second source at this time, a second intertie will be made in 2011 with the same supply line.

How: Last year your drinking water was tested for over 100 compounds. Tests are done before and after treatment and while your water is in the distribution system. The Tables presented on the following page list all of the contaminants detected in the most recent required water testing and compare them to the limits and goals set by the EPA and the State of Washington to ensure your tap water is safe. Not shown are more than 100 additional contaminants that were tested for, but not detected, in your drinking water. If you would like to see a list of these other compounds or if you have other water quality questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office. Please note: asbestos monitoring is not required for our District because all the asbestos pipe in our distribution system was replaced prior to 1991.

The Best News: Your water falls safely within state and federal guidelines for each and every contaminant, significantly below the EPA's levels.

Lead and Copper Monitoring Results

Our regional water supply does not contain lead or copper. However it is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Shoreline Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components.

When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791, or visit their website at: www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

People With Special Concerns

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Table 1: Water Quality Testing Results for 2011

Detected Compounds	Units	Primary Source	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Maximum Allowable (MCL)	Range	Average	Meets USEPA Standards?
RAW WATER							
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	Naturally present in the environment	NA	TT (Tolt watershed)	1.2 to 1.6	1.3	Yes
Cryptosporidium	#/100L	Naturally present in the environment	NA	NA	ND to 2	ND	Yes
FINISHED WATER							
Turbidity	NTU	Soil runoff	NA	0.3 NTU	0.04 to 0.15	0.06	Yes
Barium	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits	2000	2000	(one sample)	1.2	Yes
Cadmium	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits	5	5	(one sample)	0.8	Yes
Chromium[1]	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits	100	100	(one sample)	0.2	Yes
Fluoride	ppm	Water additive to promote strong teeth	4	4	0.4 to 1.1	0.8	Yes
Nitrate	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits	10	10	(one sample)	0.11	Yes
Total Trihalomethanes (2008 results)[2]	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	NA	80	18.9 to 52.5	44.4	Yes
Haloacetic Acids (5) (2008 results)2	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	NA	60	14.0 to 37.4	29.8	Yes
Total Coliform	% positive samples	Naturally present in the environment	0	5%	Highest Month: 0	Annual Avg: 0	Yes
Chlorine	ppm	Water additive to control microbes	MRDLG =4	MRDL =4	0.12 to 1.28	.79	Yes

[1]*The value reported reflects naturally occurring total chromium and not hexavalent chromium.*

[2]*This test is only required once every 3 years*

Table 2: Lead and Copper Monitoring Results for 2011

Lead and Copper Sampling Program and Units	Ideal Goal MCLG	Action Level[1]	Results of 2011 Samplings[2]	# Homes Exceeding Action Level	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
Lead, ppb	0	15	6	0 of 53	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Samples collected in homes within the Tolt water service area.
Copper, ppm	1.3	1.3	0.16	0 of 53	

[1] The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

[2] 90th percentile: 90 percent of the samples were less than the values shown.

Table Definitions

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)

The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminent Level Goal (MCLG)

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRGL)

The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)

The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)

Turbidity is a measure of how clear the water looks. The MCL that applied to the Tolt supply was 0.3 NTU for at least 95% of the samples in a month.

Treatment Technique (TT)

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

USEPA

United States Environmental Protection Agency

ppm:

Parts per million.

ppb:

Parts per billion.

NA

Not applicable.

ND

Not detected.

Conserving Water Through Local and Regional Programs

Each year during the summer, Shoreline Water District adopts both local and regional water conservation goals. During 2011 we purchased over 486 million gallons of water, with an unaccounted water rate of less than 5% throughout our distribution system, thus meeting one of our **local** water conservation goals. Look for more information in our next newsletter, which will include an estimated adoption of water conservation goals sometime in the Fall.

To meet **regional** goals, we participate in the Regional Water Conservation Program administered by Seattle Public Utilities, which set a goal of saving 11 million gallons per day (mgd) of cumulative annual average savings from 2000 through 2010, which increased to a savings target of 15 mgd cumulative annual average savings from 2011 through 2030.

As one of a group of 18 utilities that purchases wholesale water from Seattle Public Utilities, Shoreline Water District addressed this target by adopting a 6-year goal of saving 5.98 mgd throughout the combined SWP service area during 2007 through 2012. Programs such as the WashWise High Efficiency Clothes Washer program, Seattle Public Utilities' high efficiency toilet (HET) rebate program, and the Water Efficient Irrigation Program help us achieve this goal, as reflected in the following program statistics during 2011:

- 72 residences within our District's service area took advantage of the WashWise High Efficiency Clothes Washer rebate program
- 17 single family customers in Shoreline Water District took advantage of the $30 instant rebate program when they replaced their toilets with a new high efficiency model
- 3 residences and 1 business located within our District's service area participated in the Water Efficient Irrigation Program.

When combined with the other utilities that participate in this program, the total results from the Regional Conservation Program achieved an estimated 1.4 million gallons per day of annual average savings in 2011. While it is important to note that this included an estimated savings from customer response to the price of water, changes in behavior due to conservation program messages, and consumption-based sewer rates over the combined service area for 2011 and 2012, the total of 4.61 mgd conserved to date has us well-positioned to meet our cumulative 6-year total program goal of 5.98 mgd.

These excellent results are one of the contributing factors to the outstanding achievements in overall water conservation in the Puget Sound. In fact, our region's water consumption is as low as it was in the late 1950s, even though our population has grown by almost ninety percent. As of 2011, regional water consumption was 117.9 mgd, which is an increase of only 1.6% from the 116 mgd consumption in 1957, despite the significant population increase.

Handy Water Conservation Tips

How to save up to $200 per year on water bills

- Toilets are the #1 cause of undetected water leaks in the home (and resulting high water bills). Replace worn toilet flappers (if you haven't yet used your Toilet Test Dye Strip that came in the mail from Seattle Public Utilities, now's the time!)
- Faucets are the second most common cause of water leaks. Replace rubber washers and gaskets in your faucets, hoses and showerheads.
- Take showers instead of baths: a five minute shower uses 4-5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Check irrigation systems for freeze damage, broken parts, and slow leaks (this tip can save schools and other municipal facilities thousands of dollars every year!) Unusually damp or green patches of grass are usually the first sign of a leak.
- Become a savvy gardener with FREE classes sponsored by the Saving Water Partnership and Cascade Water Alliance. Topics include severything from setting up food gardens, improving your soil, and creating successful plant combinations, to installing water-wise automatic drip irrigation. Learn more here:

www.savingwater.org/savvygardenerclasses.htm

Working With Our Community:
Fix-A-Leak Contest with Local Area Schools

Every year, Seattle Public Utilities hosts an annual "Fix a Leak Week" campaign through the Saving Water Partnership. This year, we at Shoreline Water District decided to use this opportunity to increase awareness and educate our area's children (and their families) about the importance of water conservation at home.

It all began as it usually does, with Saving Water Partnership airing television commercials, doing website and social media promotions, and sending out mailers with special toilet water test dye strips to all of the residential customers in the Saving Water Partnership's service area.

Then Shoreline Water District took it a step further: we contacted all the public and private schools (grades K through 6) within Shoreline and Lake Forest Park, and challenged them with our "Fix a Leak Week Contest."

Rules were simple: kids would bring home our contest flyer, conduct the toilet dye strip test under parental supervision, have their parents sign the flyer to acknowledge the test was performed, and turn the signed flyer back in to their teachers. Prizes would be awarded to both the school as well as the classroom with the highest percentages of participation.

The results: we received 544 signed fliers from 10 out of 12 schools. The school with the highest total student participation was King's Elementary, coming in at 44.25%. They earned a special spotlight for the next 12 months in Saving Water Partnership's 2012 promotions. The classrooms with the highest participation included those led by Mrs. Walsh and Mrs. Severns, both 5th grade teachers at King's Elementary, and Mrs. Donovan's 4th grade classroom at Highland Terrace Elementary. All three classes were awarded with a celebratory pizza lunch provided by Shoreline Water District.

We love finding creative ways to help the community learn about water conservation in the home, and hope this gave our area's kids and parents a way to check on their own water consumption—particularly since leaky toilets are the #1 cause of a high water bill.

The two winning classrooms from Kings Elementary

The winning classroom at Highland Terrace Elementary

Meet Our New Manager: Diane Pottinger, PE

In November 2011, Diane Pottinger, P.E. became the new District Manager for Shoreline Water District, when our former District Manager Stu Turner retired after serving the district for over 9 years. Diane comes from an engineering consulting background with over 20 years of experience, including direct involvement in the Shoreline/Lake Forest Park/Point Wells area for the last 12 years. She has worked on water and sewer projects for Shoreline Water District, Ronald Wastewater District and the Highlands Sewer District. She was the lead author on the Comprehensive Sewer Plan for Ronald Wastewater District, the 2008 Capital Facilities Plan for Highlands Sewer District, and assisted on the 2011 Water System Plan Update for Shoreline Water District. Diane has served as a Commissioner for the City of Bellevue's Environmental Services Commission, and she is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Her responsibilities include oversight of all of Shoreline Water District's staff, operations, and management including long range and strategic planning issues, accounting and financial information, water rates, and Capital Improvement Projects.

What's In Our Water?

If you have traveled to other areas of the country or even the world, you know first hand how much the taste of water can vary. In some cases it simply tastes "different." In other cases, the taste is so unsavory that you stop and wonder, "what's in this water?"

Water is the universal solvent—it dissolves a little of anything that comes into contact with it. Wherever it goes, it gathers minerals which give it a flavor. Elements such as potassium, magnesium, calcium and even small amounts of sodium give water a full flavor. Too many elements result in a metallic taste. Too few elements result in the water tasting dull. With all the other stresses in life, it's nice to know we can walk to our own faucet and enjoy safe, clean and tasty water at any time—a luxury that many people in the world to not have.

Our water comes from the South Fork Tolt River watershed, where 70% is owned by Seattle Public Utilities. The remaining 30% is owned by the federal government and lies in the Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest. These two entities limit activities in the watershed to minimize impact on the quality of your water.

Here at Shoreline Water District, we realize that water is a precious resource and we treat it that way. Being careful to monitor and test it continuously, our water never fails to meet or exceed state and federal regulations. We have been experts in water for over 81 years and we're proud to provide you and your family with such a valuable, life-sustaining resource.

This Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) contains detailed information inside about the quality of water that Shoreline Water District provides to you. Please review the information and feel free to contact us with your questions.

Help Fire Hydrants Remain Accessible

With Spring weather comes rapid plant growth, and fire hydrants can quickly become hidden. The International Fire Code requires unobstructed access to hydrants at all times, to make sure the fire department is not hindered from gaining immediate access. How can you help? We are asking all community members to inspect any hydrants located near their homes to see if the hydrants are visible and easily accessible from the road. If plants, fences, rockeries, or other objects obstruct access to the hydrant, you should cut back vegetation and/or remove objects to create a minimum of three (3) feet of clear space around the hydrant. Thank you for helping to keep your community fire safe... you will be performing a valuable service for you and your neighbors!

Learn More About Water Quality

We at Shoreline Water District encourage public interest and participation in the decisions that affect our drinking water. Our Board of Commissioners meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 3:00 pm at our District office. Please contact us at (206) 362-8100, or via our website at www.shorelinewater.org with specific questions or concerns.

If you would like to learn more about our water, have questions about its quality, or would like to know what you can do to help keep our water supply clean, safe and abundant, please don't hesitate to contact us, or any one of the following organizations:

Seattle Public Utilities

Phone: 206-634-3000
Website: http://www.seattle.gov/util/About_SPU/Water_System/Water_Quality/index.asp

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Phone: 1-800-426-4791
Website: http://www.epa.gov.safewater

Washington State Department of Health (DOH):

Phone: 1-800-521-0323
Website: http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/

Safe Drinking Water Hotline

Phone: 1-800-426-4791

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