**Rivergrove Water District**
17661 Pilkington Road
Lake Oswego, OR 97035

**rgwd@rivergrovewater.com**

Presorted Standard
US Postage
PAID
Portland, OR
Permit No. 3908

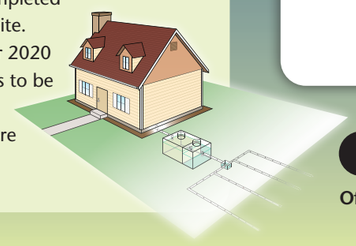
**BOARD MEETINGS are held the 4th Monday of the month at 7:30 AM at the District office.**

(Changes to meetings are published in the LO Review.)

## Financial Assistance for Septic Systems Owners

Rivergrove Water District has two different financial assistance programs available for Septic System owners who live within the District Source Water Protection Area. Both programs have limited funds and are available on a first-come, first serve basis until funds are depleted.

To qualify, you must have an approved septic inspector with the Smart Septic program (listed on the DEQ website) do your inspection. Include the completed inspection form from the DEQ website. Applications are due before October 2020 with receipts in the noted categories to be eligible. The Grant will end at that time. Call DJ for application and more information. **503-635-6041**.



## TRY AUTO PAY!

***Make it easy to pay your bills.*** Set up today!
For more information call **503-635-6041.**

**2020 WATER QUALITY**

**Office hours are 7:30am to 4pm, Monday through Friday**

*Janine Casey*

*DJ Ezell*


*Tom Edwards*

# Water Quality Report 2020

### Resources:

**EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline:** 800-426-4791

**Oregon Health Authority - Drinking Water Program:** 971-673-0405

**State of Oregon Certified Lab Testing:**
Rivergrove Water-Alexin Analytical: 503-639-9311

**DJ Ezell, Rivergrove Water District:**
Phone: 503-635-6041, Email: rgwd@rivergrovewater.com

## COVID-19 Information

The District's highest priority is protecting the health and well-being of our customers. We want to assure you our water is clean and safe. Due to the extraordinary situation we are in with COVID-19, proper sanitation is critical to preventing its spread. Water service will be available to all customers regardless of account status and no late fees assessed until further notice. Due to additional financial expenditures many of us are experiencing, the District will work with all customers struggling with payments. We appreciate your understanding as we navigate this new territory together and do our best to maximize health and calm for our community.

## Hello to Tom Edwards!


We want to welcome Tom to the Rivergrove Water District. Tom is highly qualified in the water industry with over 20 years of experience. Tom holds several licenses: Level 4 Distribution and Level 3 Treatment. Tom is a certified Cross-Connection Specialist with the state of Oregon. Tom previously worked at Joint Base Lewis-McChord for 15 years in the state of Washington and relocated to Oregon last June. Tom is a veteran of the Armed Forces and enjoys home Do-it-Yourself renovation projects, gardening, and archery. Welcome Tom!

## Automatic Meters are Here!

We started the process of installing automatic meters to replace old analog type. We think the new AMR system will improve the accuracy of our readings, the level of customer service, and provide comparisons to previous time periods that can help consumers better understand their usage. They can also identify data anomalies that indicate potential water leaks in their household. The installation will be conducted in phases with completion anticipated by 2022.

# *the* water we drink

**www.rivergrovewater.com**

## A Report is Required Each Year

This report describes the Rivergrove Water District water sources and quality from data taken during the 2019 calendar year.

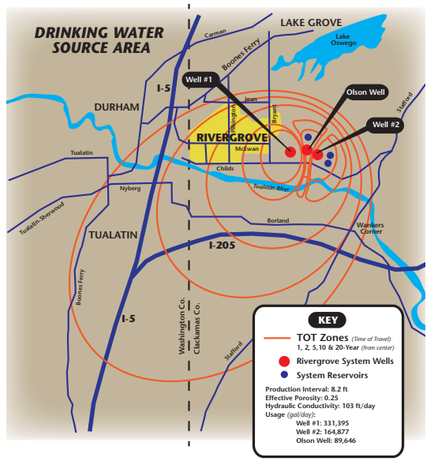
This document conforms to Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations requiring water utilities to provide the following information annually. The water that we serve you is required to meet the water quality standards set by EPA.

Bottled water that you may otherwise purchase comes under different standards and requirements. Those companies are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). These standards are not the same. Please be an informed consumer and check the sources and standards of your drinking water.

"All 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 the water poses a health risk.

More information about contaminants potential health effects can be obtained by calling the: EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **800-426-4791.** Also check **www.rivergrovewater.com**.

## Our Water Source:




Rivergrove Water District water sources are three wells. It has been determined through our Source Water Assessment done by the State Drinking Water Department that the water is drawn from the interflow zones within the Frenchmen Springs member of the Columbia River Basalt. The aquifer is considered to be deep and confined. The Source Water Assessment is available for reviewing at our District office if you are interested. Our wells are considered susceptible to various activities within the location of the well. Imagine, even though we are in a confined aquifer, some chemicals or contaminants put on the ground above may cause problems. We ask you to STOP AND THINK ABOUT YOUR ACTIONS ABOVE GROUND!

**Well #1** is located on Old Gate Road. In 1959 it was drilled with a 16" bore and finished with a 12" casing at a depth of 204 feet. It can produce up to 595 gallons per minute and services the majority of our 1375 customers.

**Well #2** is located on Hilltop Road. In 1967 this well was drilled with an 18" bore and finished with a 12" casing at a depth of 430 feet deep. It can produce up to 400 gallons per minute.

**Well #3** ***Olson Well*** is located on Olson Ct. near Reservoir #3. In 2010, this well was drilled with a 20" bore to a depth of 82 feet and 16" bore down to 425 ft. The upper casing is 16" diameter and the lower casing is 12" to a depth of 415 feet. It can produce up to 350 gallons per minute.

# Backflow / What is It?

Backflow is water (along with possibly nasty stuff) that goes in a direction that is opposite of where it normally goes. If what comes back into our system is contaminated, do you want that in our safe drinking water? No one does.

# Cross Connection / What is it?

This is the means of how backflow might happen. You may have one on your side of the meter. Think about it, do you have a well on your property or are irrigating from the Tualatin River that might somehow get connected to your water service? These connections have the potential to introduce contaminants into the District's water system. We are required by the Oregon Health Authority to have a program to help prevent this from happening.

Other examples of cross connections are irrigation systems, pesticide applicators put on a hose, waterbed siphons, radiator flushing equipment, mortuaries, car wash dirty water, the list goes on and on.

# Premise Backflow Protection

This is our program and our goal is to retrofit each of the District's water services with a meter backflow unit. It is also required on all new construction. We test them annually and repair if needed. All of the costs to fund the program are included in the District water rate charges.

If your water service doesn't have a meter and backflow assembly at the service connection we are getting there. Until then if you have a backflow assembly in your plumbing, you will need to have it annually tested by a certified backflow tester and have the test results sent in to the Water District by the end of the year.

# Thermal Expansion Issue

When we put a backflow at the meter the issue of thermal expansion may happen and this could affect your plumbing system. Here's what it is and how to prevent it. Water in your plumbing system expands every time the hot water heater starts to heat water. This is thermal expansion. When there is no backflow prevention assembly at the meter the water flows back into the system. If one is installed water flowing back into our system is stopped. When this happens water pressure may begin to build up.

The following condition is rare and the odds that all the factors happen together are great. However, with the backflow prevention assembly in place this potential hazard exists and that is the reason for this notification.

Water heaters are installed with a temperature and pressure valve (T&P), which is designed to relieve excessive water temperature or pressure. If the thermostat in a hot water heater becomes defective and allows the water temperature to increase to more than 212 F, and the T&P valve fails, your domestic water can become "superheated." Superheated water can cause water heaters to explode or can allow scalding steam to be released from faucets upon personal use. **IN ORDER FOR THIS TO OCCUR THE HOT WATER HEATER THERMOSTAT AND THE T&P VALVE MUST BOTH MALFUNCTION SIMULTANEOUSLY.** Your water heater manufacturer recommends the T&P valve be OPERATED ANNUALLY and REPLACED OR INSPECTED AT LEAST ONCE EVERY THREE YEARS. A licensed plumber can inspect, repair, or replace the T&P valve to ensure your safety.

These are things to look for when thermal expansion becomes an issue. Faucets may leak or you might get brief burst of excess water pressure shortly after opening, or the temperature and pressure valve on your water heater begins to spit water. If these are present first turn the water temperature down and if that doesn't work you should correct this by installing a thermal expansion tank.

A thermal expansion tank is a can about twice the size of a three-pound coffee can with a rubber bladder inside. When the pressure in your water line increases, the rubber bladder is squeezed into a smaller space. When a faucet is opened and the pressure is released, the rubber bladder re-expands to its former size inside the can. The only moving part is the rubber bladder that is squeezed and released by the pressure. Expansion tanks are installed on a cold water line, and require inserting a fitting to accommodate the expansion tank. Most installations are done by a certified Plumber.

If you have any questions concerning backflow and our cross connection program please contact DJ at **503-635-6041**.

# CAPITAL Improvement Projects

## Reservoir 3 Project

On April 14, 2020 the District broke ground on a Capital Improvement project for Reservoir 3. Reservoir 3 is our largest reservoir servicing the majority of the Rivergrove Water District. This project was initiated to retrofit our reservoir to meet current standards of safety. Improvements will include seismic upgrades, water main replacement and slope stabilization of the site. This $2.3M project was funded under the Safe Drinking Water Loan Fund. The contract was awarded to Emory and Sons LLC.

The project is scheduled to be accomplished in three phases with completion projected for winter 2021. You may notice construction vehicles moving in and out of the reservoir site…a good sign progress is being made. Some of the work will require cooperation from our Oregon weather to include ground stabilization and painting the reservoir to prevent corrosion. We hope our customers will not be too inconvenienced during the construction period. Once completed, this upgrade will allow our District to provide customers clean, safe drinking water for many years to come.

# Water Quality Data • 2019

*For your safety, water is regularly monitored for contaminants found in these charts.*
*We continue to provide you with safe, clean drinking water that meets all EPA regulations.*

## Regulated Contaminants

| Contaminants | Date Tested | Violation? | Well #1 Detected | Well #2 Detected | Well #3 Detected | How We Measure | MCL | Likely Source of Contamination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gross Alpha Radiological | 9/12/11 | NO | 3.0 | 3.1 | – | pCi/L | 15 | Erosion of Natural Deposits |
| Total Chromium | 3/29/11 | NO | .63 | .34 | – | ug/L or ppb | 100 | Erosion Nat Deposits |
| Nitrate | 9/16/19 | NO | 1.4 | 1.93 | .694 | ppm | 10 | Fertilizer/Septic/Sewage |
| HAA5 | 8/21/19 | NO | @ Public Distribution System - 0.0012 | | | ppm | 0.060 | Disinfection Byproduct |

## Non-Regulated Contaminants

| Contaminants Tested | Date | Violation? | Well #1 Detected | Well #2 Detected | How We Measure | Recommended Level Limits |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chloride | 8/13/18 | NO | 29 | 13 | ppm | <250 recommended |
| Hardness | 8/13/18 | NO | 7.83 | 7.01 | gpg | <10.5 recommended |
| Silicia | 8/21/15 | NO | 57 | 58 | ppm | No standard limits |
| Sodium | 8/9/11 | NO | 10.05 | 8.1 | ppm | <20 recommended |
| pH | 8/13/18 | NO | 6.4 | 6.3 | pH units | 6.6-8.5 recommended |
| Dissolved Solids Total | 8/13/18 | NO | 247 | 213 | ppm | <500 recommended |
| Fluoride | 8/13/18 | NO | 0.11 | 0.10 | ppm | 4 ppm |

## Lead & Copper

| Contaminants | Date | Violation? | RGW Systemwide Testing Results | How We Measure | Action Level | Likely Source of Contamination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lead | 9/11/19 | NO | 0.0070 ppm | ppm | 0.015 | Corrosion of building plumbing systems |
| Copper | 9/11/19 | NO | 0.5470 ppm | ppm | 1.3 | |

# Table Definitions

**In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations with which you might not be familiar. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:**

**Action Level (AL).** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

**Contaminants.** When microbiological, inorganic, organic, and radioactive compounds in drinking water have exceeded regulated maximum levels they are considered contaminants.

**Grains Per Gallon (GPG).** Unit of water hardness. One GPG is 1 grain (64.8 milligrams) of calcium carbonate dissolved in 1 US gallon of water.

**Maximum Contaminant Level*** *(maximum allowed)* **(MCL)**. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set at very stringent levels.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal** (*"goal"*) **(MCLG)**. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

**Non-Detects (ND).** Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present or that it is present at levels too low for modern laboratory equipment to detect.

**Parts per million (ppm)** or **Milligrams per liter (mg/L).** One part per million is comparable to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

**Parts per billion (ppb)** or **Micrograms per liter (ug/L).** One part per billion is comparable to one second in 32 years, or one minute in 2,000 years, a single penny in $10,000,000,or the first 16 inches on a trip to the moon.

**Picocurries per liter.** Picocurie is a measure of radioactivity. One picocurie is a trillion times smaller than one curie.

**Regulated Contaminant.** Regulated by law to protect public health. The law specifies maximum contaminant levels allowed in drinking water.

**Non Regulated Contaminant.** Have guidelines set to assure good aesthetic quality, the guidelines identify levels of substances that may affect taste, odor or color of water.

* MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described effect.

# Lead & Copper

If you have read the results of our lead and copper testing you can see that the results are well-below the action levels for lead and copper. However, the wording below is **required** by the EPA to be printed in **all** consumer's Water Quality Reports.

"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. Rivergrove 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 from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at **www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.** Please watch the Rivergrove neighborhoods this summer for Nate and Brian working with the next round of Lead and Copper testing.

# If you Are "At Risk"

Some people may be more vulnerable to the contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, or persons who have undergone organ transplants, or persons who have HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections.

If this is you please contact your health provider for advice about drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **800-426-4791**.