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Seattle Public Utilities

# 2023 Annual Water Quality Report King County Water District 20

Volume 25

Gary G. Coy, *President*  
Russ Pritchard, *Secretary*  
Brooke Teegarden, *Commissioner*  
Michael Martin, *General Manager*

## News from the District

This is the twenty fifth annual Water Quality Report to our customers, describing the District's drinking water sources and quality for 2022. Federal regulations require water utilities to provide information to their ratepayers annually. This report shows how your water complies with EPA standards. Water District 20 and the City of Seattle are proud of their water systems and want to share this information with you to help you make informed decisions about your drinking water.

### 2023 Capital Improvement Project

This project involves the replacement of existing watermains and services in portions of King County and the City of Burien, consisting of (2) schedules (A&B).

**Schedule A** is on 14th Ave S from S 120th St to S 128th St. This work provides for the replacement of approx. 3,350 LF of aging infrastructure, including the replacement of 82 service laterals and meter boxes.

**Schedule B** is on SW 100th St and includes the installation of approx. 675 LF of new DI pipe to eliminate 4 dead ends to improve water quality and fire protection.

### Let us know

We want to hear from you! Please let us know if you have any questions, concerns or ideas on how the District can better serve you!

**Michael Martin, General Manager**

## Information for Water District 20 Customers

### Cross Connection Control Survey

**Water District 20** is conducting a survey of all service connections to the public water system. The goal of the survey is to provide safe drinking water to our customers. Although the water that reaches your home or business meets all State and Federal drinking water standards and is safe to drink, contamination can occur within your own piping system. This potential hazard is known as an unprotected "**cross connection**", which can cause backflow to occur. **Backflow** is a plumbing term meaning the undesirable reversal of flow of water or other substances into the public water system.

**Washington State Administrative Code 246-290-490** establishes rules and requirements that require King County Water District 20 to protect the public water system. Our goal is to identify potential cross connection hazards and take appropriate actions to protect against the possibility of backflow. We are in the process of mailing out surveys, beginning in April 2023. These surveys should require about 5 minutes of your time. You are the most familiar with how the water is being used within your property and we thank you in advance for your timely cooperation.

Water Purveyors, homeowners, business owners and health officials must all share the responsibility for ensuring the safety of our drinking water. Please take the time to complete and return the survey within 30 days of receipt. Your participation is essential to the success of this program. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the District at [kcwd20@kcwd20.com](mailto:kcwd20@kcwd20.com).

### 2020 Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 4 (UCMR4) Sampling Results

The EPA has established MRLs (Minimum Reporting Levels) based on the capability of the analytical method. These are not based on a level established as "significant" or "harmful". The detection of a UCMR4 contaminant does not signify cause for concern in and of itself. The purpose of the monitoring is to help determine their occurrence in drinking water and any potential need for future regulation.

In 2020, two analytes were monitored: Cylindrospermopsis and Anatoxin-a. No detections of either were detected in the samples taken. Note: The District completed the UCMR4 sampling in 2021 and was not required to sample in 2022.

### Healthy Rivers, Fish and You

We share our water with the entire ecosystem. The mountain reservoirs that supply our tap water also provide water to rivers that are home to salmon, trout, and many other species. Conserving water in summer and fall helps adult salmon who are returning to rivers to spawn when stream flows are naturally low. Each gallon you save stays in our rivers and lakes to sustain salmon, wildlife, and forests.



### Annual Flushing

Water mains are flushed throughout the District quarterly to maintain high water quality. If you see water running down your street and you do NOT see our sign, please contact the office.

## 2022 Water Quality

The results of 2022 regional water quality testing are summarized in the table below. All of the compounds found in the Cedar River supply were found to be at lower levels than allowed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline **(800) 426-4791**.

Detected	Units	Typical Sources	MCLG	MCL	Average	Range	Complies?
Raw Water							
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	Naturally present in the environment	NA	TT	0.72	0.39 to 0.97	√ Yes
Finished Water							
Turbidity	NTU	Soil Runoff	NA	TT	0.35	0.19 to 1.93	√ Yes
Arsenic	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits	0	10	0.43	0.34 to 0.52	√ Yes
Barium	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits	2000	2000	1.26	1.02 to 1.43	√ Yes
Bromate	ppb	By-products of drinking water disinfection	0	10	0.4	ND to 5	√ Yes
Fluoride	ppm	Water additive, which promotes strong teeth	4	4	0.7	0.6 to 0.8	√ Yes
Nitrate	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits	10	10	0.1	One Sample	√ Yes
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	By-products of drinking water chlorination	NA	80	Average = 40 Range = 19.6 to 63.3		
Haloacetic Acids (5)	ppb	By-products of drinking water chlorination	NA	60	Average = 26 Range = 12.1 to 38.2		
Chlorine (WD20)	ppm	Additive used to control microbes	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	Average = .93 Range = 0.6 to 1.1		

**DEFINITIONS**

**MCLG:** (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal) 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.

**MCL:** (Maximum Contaminant Level) The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**MRDL:** (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level) The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG:** (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal) The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**TT:** (Treatment Technique) A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**NTU:** (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit) Turbidity is a measure of how clear the water looks. The turbidity MCL that applied to the Cedar supply in 2022 is 5 NTU.

**NA:** Not Applicable

**ND:** Not Detected

**ppm:** 1 part per million = 1mg/L = 1 milligram per liter

**ppb:** 1 part per billion = 1 ug/L = 1 microgram per liter

## About your drinking water....

The EPA sets drinking water quality standards and establishes testing methods and monitoring requirements for water utilities. The EPA sets maximum levels for water contaminants and requires utilities to give public notice whenever a violation occurs. The contaminants that might be expected to occur in water include biological contaminants such as virus and bacteria, inorganic contaminants such as salts and minerals, organic contaminants such as by-products of the water disinfection process, pesticides and herbicides, and radioactive contaminants from natural or man-made deposits.

Your drinking water was monitored 365 days a year and was tested for over 100 compounds. The tests are done before and after treatment and while your water is in the distribution system. The tables on the adjacent page show the detected contaminants and compares them to the limits and goals set by the EPA and Washington State Department of Health to ensure your tap water is safe. Please note that your water falls safely within state and federal guidelines for each and every contaminant and significantly below the EPA's levels.

Not listed are the over 100 other contaminants that were tested for, but not detected, in your drinking water. If you would like a list of the other compounds, please call Seattle Public Utilities at **(206) 615-0827**.

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, and 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.**



At 5,414 feet, Meadow Mountain is the highest point in the Cedar River Watershed.



## District and Regional Goals

In 2022, Water District 20 purchased 980 million gallons (1,311,205 ccf) of water from Seattle Public Utilities and had a distribution system leakage (DSL) rate of 11.5% (113,238,972 gallons). In response to exceeding our goal of 10% DSL, the District conducted a survey of the entire system in March for potential leaks and is taking correction action on any leaks found.

The Saving Water Partnership (SWP), which is made up of Water District 20 and its 18 water utility partners, has set a ten-year conservation goal: keep the total average annual retail water user of SWP members under 110 mgd through 2028, despite forecasted population growth, by reducing per capita water use.

For 2022, the Saving Water Partnership met the goal, using 94.3 mgd.

### Rebate Program Update

Within WD20, 2 single family residences replaced 2 toilets using the \$100 rebate for the Premium 1.1 gpf (or less) toilets.

### Conservation Tips

Visit the Saving Water Partnership website at [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org) to learn more about reducing water usage at your home or business. When we work together to save water, it makes a big difference. Thanks to conservation efforts, our region uses the same amount of water today that it did in the 1950's.

### Outreach Opportunity

Water District 20 looks forward to hosting Savvy Gardener classes and participating in the Burien Farmers Market in 2023.

### The following conservation services are available through the Saving Water Partnership:

Regional Water Conservation Assistance  
206-684-7283 or [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org).

Take home items including toilet leak dye strips, hose washers, faucet aerators, and more.

Technical assistance to residential and commercial customers on irrigation efficiency issues.

Technical assistance to commercial customers on indoor efficiency issues.

Regional Language Line offering language interpretation by phone.

## 2022 Lead and Copper Testing Results

Parameter/Units	MCLG	Action Level*	Results of 2022 Samplings*	Homes Exceeding Action Level	Source
Lead, ppb	0	15	2.2	0 of 50	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Copper, ppm	1.3	1.3	0.05	0 of 50	

\*The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

\*90th percentile: i.e. 90 percent of the samples were less than the values shown.

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. King County Water District No. 20 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.



King County Water District 20  
12606 First Avenue South  
Burien, Washington 98168-2617  
<https://www.kcwd20.com>

*Commissioners:* Gary G. Coy, Russ Pritchard, Brooke Teegarden  
Michael Martin, *General Manager*, Lisa Gee, *Office Manager*, Chris Cordi, *Superintendent*



The Board of Commissioners meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 AM. The meetings are held at the District office located at 12606 First Avenue S, Burien, WA 98168. For information, contact the District at (206) 243-3990 or [info@kcwd20.com](mailto:info@kcwd20.com).

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.

Este informe contiene informacion importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted or hable con alguien que lo entienda.

Báo cáo này chứa thông tin quan trọng về nước uống của bạn. Có ai đó dịch nó cho bạn, hoặc nói chuyện với ai đó hiểu nó.

#### **BILLING INFORMATION**

All connections to the water system are charged a Fixed Charge based on the size of the meter. Water is billed using bi-monthly meter readings and is separate from the Fixed Charge. Consumption is billed by "ccf". 1ccf = 100 cubic feet, which is equivalent to 748 gallons. The 2023 billing rates are as follows:

0 to 10 ccf is billed at \$2.72 per ccf  
11 to 30 ccf is billed at \$3.50 per ccf  
31 ccf and above is billed at \$4.77 per ccf

#### **Options for making payments are:**

- 1) Over the phone with your credit or debit card
- 2) Online with your credit or debit card at [www.kcwd20.com](http://www.kcwd20.com)
- 3) Automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account
- 4) In person with cash, check, money order or credit/debit card
- 5) By Mail: 12606 1st Ave S, Burien, WA 98168

#### **Senior or Disabled Discount is Available**

King County Water District 20 is pleased to be able to offer a 30% discount for our qualified senior and disabled residents. The discount is applicable for the standard base rate. Income limits apply. For more information on this program, visit [www.kcwd20.com](http://www.kcwd20.com) or call the office at (206) 243-3990.

Please contact the office during regular business hours, Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, if you have any questions regarding your bill and payment options. (206) 243-3990