

Westside Water Association

PO Box 267

Vashon Island, WA 98070

PH: 206-715-3805

e-mail: Manager@westsidewater.org

Island Water Management iwm.1@juno.com

web: www.westsidewater.org

Year 2020 Westside Water Association Water Quality Report

This “Consumer Confidence Report” is being sent to you to inform you about the quality of your drinking water.

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

Unlike 2019, (see last year's report) 2020 was a light year for regularly scheduled tests. The following tests were taken:

- Bacteriological (monthly)
- Nitrate (some confusion about that. Taken but no record found by lab. See next paragraph)

Missed?: For reasons that are not clear, there are no sample results on file for nitrate for 2020. I normally send such a sample in with another system IWM manages and that sample is on record, but the lab can't find the Westside sample. Be that as it may, ... the one taken at the end of 2019 showed .05 – 0.6 mg/l (ppm). With the lack of documentation of the sample, this is, technically, a “monitoring violation” and a notification of this is included in this report.

Also included in this report are the most recent results on file for:

- Radionuclide: (2016 sample)
- Lead and Copper results (2019)

In 2020 we continued to take quarterly arsenic samples to establish a baseline for arsenic concentration in Westside's normally used sources. The ambient concentration is ~3 parts per billion.

If you wish to review lab results on-line, go to the following web address:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/odwsentry/portal/odw/si/Disclaimer.aspx?Page=/portal/odw/si/findwatersystem.Aspx>

That link will take you to a web site that requires the user to agree to conditions in order to view information. Click “I Accept” and enter Westside's public water system ID : 94950. When you arrive at the WWA water system page click on “samples”. For some reason you have to hit the “Collect Date” tab twice to bring up all the tests in a chronological order. We are also happy to provide you with laboratory documentation of water quality test results upon request

Special Note to vulnerable populations:

This notice pertains to anyone who is wanting more guidance about water quality and health.

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

Report by: Douglas P Dolstad IWM Inc./ WWA Manager iwm.1@juno.com 206-715-3805

undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly people, 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)

Summary of Water Quality (Table)

Westside's source water continues to provide high quality drinking water. In the chart below are the test summaries.

Water Quality Table

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Inorganic Contaminants								
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	3.0 (annual average)	3.0	3.0	2020	NO	Erosion of natural deposits. In Puget Sound the arsenic in Westside Water's well is from ancient volcanic activity.
Radioactive Contaminants								
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	0.55	NA		2016	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.55	2019	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion
Inorganic Contaminants							
							of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants							
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	.0050	2019	1	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Special Note

Arsenic

While your drinking water is much lower in arsenic than EPA's standard, (10 ppb) it does contain ambient levels of arsenic (2-3 ppb in the well points and spring, 0 -1.5 in the Anderson Well field (SO9). This background level is associated with ancient volcanic activity in the Puget Sound Region. The EPA Health Goal is 0. EPA's health goal is an attempt to balance the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects due to long term exposure against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations over many years and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems. WWA board policy is to provide the cleanest water possible to users. **No water from Canyon Well with its ambient level of 35 ppb arsenic has been used since the 2nd well at the Anderson site was put on line in 2016.**

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

About contaminants

It is important to realize that drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected and legally allowed to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. Some people though, 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 infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). If you have any questions or concerns about your drinking water, please do not hesitate to contact the Westside Water Association at 567-4568

NOTICE TO WATER SYSTEM USERS***NITRATE MONITORING VIOLATION***

Westside Water Association (ID # 949500,) located in King County is required to monitor your drinking water for nitrate annually. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. In 2020 we cannot find the results of an annual nitrate test and conclude that one was not taken in that year. Westside is technically in violation of a monitoring requirement and thus, this notice.

At this time:

- No action is required by the users

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For more information, contact Doug Dolstad at (206) 715-3805

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses.) You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is sent to you by Westside Water Association.

Sources of Water

The sources of water Westside draws from are varied in location but all of them are considered by the Dept of Health to be "ground water".

Westside uses the **Canyon Pump Station** (well points + 1 small spring) and the **Anderson Well Field** as the primary and regular sources of water supply.

These sources provide very high water quality water to Westside users all year long. The Anderson Well Field is equipped with an emergency generator.

In addition to these sources, the system has the **Canyon Well** available for extreme water situations. Should that source be used the water to be blended with other source water to keep the arsenic below the monitoring standard. The Canyon Well has not been used since 2016 and will be operationally replaced by the **Back 40 Well** when it gets connected to the system. (2021).

The big news for this year was the acquisition of what is known as the **Back 40 Well** (\$10 in DOH terms). The pump test for this well indicates a production capacity of 30 gallons per minute with good water quality though the manganese level (a "secondary contaminant" according to EPA) is a bit above the MCL. Operationally we intend to use that well as a blended and supplemental source and hope to have it online in 2021. When this source is connected it will replace the Canyon Well as a way to meet the demand for water from Westside Water users.

If **Shinglemill Creek** (an emergency surface water source) is ever used, users would be notified that the source is on-line and a "boil water" notice will be posted. The likelihood of needing this source is remote.

Similarly, if the Canyon Well is being used, users would be kept informed about the concentration of arsenic in the blended water.

Westside is fortunate to own 40 acres of the watershed that provides its water. This ownership confers a level of protection some systems just don't have. It is still very important that the rest of the watershed be handled in an ecologically responsible way. If you see any activity that you believe might compromise the quality of the water and thus, you or your loved one's health, please call Island Water Management or a Westside Water Board member (who will get hold of IWM) and we will investigate the situation. Truly, the watershed's health is our own.

Update on Anderson Well (A2)

We now have 4 years of use with this source and, while we remain pleased with its production and water quality, we have modified our use as we seek to match the capacity of the underlying aquifer. We continue to do monthly monitoring of the water table associated with this source.

Potential sources of chemical contamination

Because some of our water comes from springs, the hydrology of which is largely unknown, there is good reason to be vigilant about the environmental health of our watershed. Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife. Westside uses chlorine as a disinfectant. The chlorine level is monitored every week day and a bacteriological test is taken monthly. There were no

positive bacteriological samples in 2017.

Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, saltwater intrusion, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, and, mining or farming. Inorganic chemicals include arsenic, barium, selenium, nickel, cyanide, fluoride, iron, manganese, silver, etc.

Radioactive contaminants, which are naturally occurring. This is more of a problem in places that have bedrock at the level of their water source and not so much an issue for this hill of a mound of till we call Vashon.

Pesticides and herbicides, may come from sources such as agriculture and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Westside Water treats our water according to EPA's regulations and/or the standards of the Washington State Department of Health – whichever are more stringent. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. If you are using a filter for your household please pay attention to the manufacturer's recommended maintenance schedule.

Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; e.g. take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Additional Information for Lead

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. Westside Water Association 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>.

Management and Board Information

The Westside Water system is managed by Island Water Management, a company owned by WWA member Doug Dolstad. A five member Board serves as the governing body of the Association. The Board meets on a regular bi-monthly schedule (3rd Thursday of the odd month at 7 pm)

Meetings are held at a board member's home. Please so call Doug if you'd like to attend and I'll tell you where that month's meeting will be held.

(2021) WWA Board Members

Jim Cross At Large	Richard Perret	Jeff Thurlow Vice President	Pat Call, Treasurer	Adrian Witherspoon President
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