Water District News

Irvin Water District No. 6

June, 2021

From the Manager

As we work through our driest spring in recorded history, many stop to ponder what the fallout will be. Wildfires are on many minds. The worst drought since records began in 1881 has a water district manager thinking about supplying safe, adequate water to customers for many years to come. Currently, the water shortage is evidenced with low flows in our river, affecting recreation and, more importantly, habitat and fish and everything else relying on it. The mighty Colorado River that spent millions of years carving the Grand Canyon and building the Baja of California now runs out of water miles short. Humans have caused this in less time than Spokane's weather records have existed. Irrigation is our largest use of water.

To learn more about how you can do your part to preserve this precious resource and keep our rivers flowing, visit https://www.iwac.us/videos/

Regarding Your Water Meter

We occasionally have trouble reading meters, because they are covered by grass or bushes, or vehicles are parked on top of them. Please keep your water meter accessible at all times, so we can easily read it or shut the water off quickly in case of emergency. Thank you!

Sprinkler System Safety

In accordance with Washington State law, Irvin Water District has a backflow program to prevent hazardous chemicals from getting into your water supply. All sprinkler systems must have an approved and properly installed backflow device such as AVB, PVB, or DCVA. All devices are required to be inspected and/or tested every year. We have a list of testers who have provided the District with their credentials. If you have questions or need assistance, please call our office at 924-9320. If you have already had your device tested, we thank you!

Call before you dig.
It's the law. (RCW 19.122)
Dial 811 two business days before digging.

Office News

Our District office has been closed to the public since the COVID shelter-in-place directives were enacted in March, 2020. Since then, we have continued to do water testing, reporting, meter reading, repairs, and accounting, as usual. We have not followed collection procedures for over a year. Some customers have not paid their water bill in the past year, and have very large past-due balances. Let us know if you need to set up a payment plan. If you follow that plan, we will work with you and will not follow our normal shut-off procedures. Late charges will be assessed, however. We expect to re-open the office on **July 12** and look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new customers!

Board of Commissioners
David Bennett, *President*
Sean Charbonneau
Susan Darnell
Open public meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 4:00 P.M.

Office location & hours:

- 11907 E. Trent Avenue (Trent & Pit)
- Office hours 7:30-3:30 PM Mon. through Fri.
  Reopening to public on July 12
- The Manager and Operator work from 6 AM-4:30 PM, Monday through Thursday.
- 24-hour drop slot in door
- Phone: **(509) 924-9320**

We welcome visitors in the office. We have free educational materials that include coloring/activity books and stickers for children, conservation brochures, and Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer atlases.

This report is provided to all of our customers. It describes your drinking water quality for the period of January-December, 2020. Your water district is committed to supplying safe water that meets or surpasses state and federal standards and achieves the highest standards of customer service. Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791**. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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 providers. 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 1-800-426-4791.**

Your drinking water comes from the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. This pristine and abundant aquifer lies in two states, holds ten trillion gallons of water, and is the sole source of drinking water for almost half a million people in the region. This groundwater source is recharged by the local precipitation and the snow pack in northern Idaho and western Montana and is naturally filtered by surface vegetation and the layers of gravel above the water line. The aquifer travels through northern Idaho and into Washington where it discharges into the Spokane River and the Little Spokane River. The SVRP aquifer is unique because of its vast size, swift flow of water, porous soils and due to the fact that the land over the aquifer is extensively developed. These factors make our aquifer uniquely susceptible to contamination. We must all treat the aquifer with care to keep our drinking water clean for everyone to enjoy. In the past one hundred years aquifer levels have remained constant, however scientific models have shown us that even though the aquifer is plentiful it is not unlimited. Careful planning will be required in the coming years to ensure that this aquifer remains clean and available for our community.

2020 Water Quality Report Irvin Water District #6

This report shows our water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Irvin Water District #6 at (509) 924-9320.** Our normal office hours are **M-F 7:30-3:30.** Board meetings are scheduled monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 4:00 P.M.

Irvin Water District routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, **2020.** All drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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 disorder.

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

*Parts per million (***ppm***) or Milligrams per liter (**mg/l**)* - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.
Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (**MCL**) is 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.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - (mandatory language) The "Goal" (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG allow for a margin of safety. **pCi/L** - Pico Curies per Liter - a unit of radioactivity. **Ppb or Ug/L**- parts per billion or micrograms per liter. About 1 drop in one of the largest tanker trucks used to haul gasoline would represent 1 ppb.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	**Violation**	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	**MCL**	**Likely Source of Contamination**
Microbiological Contaminants						
1. Total Coliform Bacteria *	**No**	Absent	Absent	0	(systems that collect fewer than 40 samples per month) 1 positive monthly sample	Naturally present in the environment
***60 Samples were taken in 2020 All were satisfactory**						
Inorganic Contaminants						
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) Pump SO1 Pump SO3 Pump SO4 Pump SO5	**No**	 1.49 2.06 1.17 0.76	**Ppm**	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 2015 SO1 Radium 228 2015 SO3 Radium 228 2015 SO4 Radium 228 2018 SO5	**No**	.425 .104 .34 .302	**pCi/l**	n/a	15/5.0	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha 2020 Pump 1 Gross Alpha 2015 Pump 3 Gross Alpha 2020 Pump 4 Gross Alpha 2018 Pump 5	**No**	ND 1.00 ND <3	**pCi/l**	n/a	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	**No**	.01-.31	**Ppm**	4.0	4.0	Measure of disinfectant added to water
Copper, tested summer 2018	**No**	.0104-.0548	**Ppm**	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Lead, tested summer 2018	**No**	ND-3.7	**Ppb**	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes	**No**	ND	**Ppb**	0	80	By-Products of Chlorination