Your drinking water is brought to your home by the Spokane County Water District #3, which 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. It 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. Preserving our water sources for the future is a priority for SCWD#3. To find out more about how you can be an active partner in our efforts visit www.spokaneaquifer.org/education-awareness/water-conservation/ or www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wtr/wtrcnsv.html.

SCWD#3 strives to be a good steward of the aquifer and your water system. Year round water quality monitoring, replacing aging or leaking pipes and pumps, and planning for growth are just some of the responsibilities of the District.

In order to ensure that your water is clean and safe, we test for contaminants all year long. The Department of Health and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Washington Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. We are proud to report that your water meets or exceeds all state and federal regulations. While some contaminants were found in the water, the Environmental Protection Agency has determined that your water is safe at these levels for you and your family. Keep in mind that the presence of contaminants doesn’t mean the water is unsafe. MCLs are set at very stringent levels. 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 health effect. Health related standards are set by the Washington State Department of Health. In addition to monitoring the quality of the water, SCWD#3 also works to make sure we are using water efficiently. We set water use efficiency goals for our system in 2008, updated them in 2015, and report our progress annually.

SYSTEM LEAKAGE BELOW 10% BY 2020 The District did not meet the 10% goal in 2017 due to water main and service line leakage. SCWD#3 will continue its aggressive approach to meet this goal through leak detection, repair and replacement of water mains and meters. In conjunction, production meters are read weekly and consumption meters are read 8 months per year. This information is used not only for billing, but reviewed for system loss and demands which help the District make informed decisions.

SCWD #3 DESIGNED REBATE BUDGET SCWD#3 has set aside an annual budget to provide rebates to commercial customers, public schools, and educational facilities for both low flow fixtures and landscaping efficiencies.

CONSERVATION ORIENTED RATE STRUCTURE SCWD#3 adjusted the second tier of the “inclining” rate structure in 2006 to provide an incentive for customers to reduce their water usage.

Your drinking water comes from the Spokane Valley Ruddhorn Prairie Aquifer (see reverse for map). 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. It 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 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. Preserving our water sources for the future is a priority for SCWD#3. To find out more about how you can be an active partner in our efforts visit www.spokaneaquifer.org/education-awareness/water-conservation/ or www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wtr/wtrcnsv.html.

SCWD#3 strives to be a good steward of the aquifer and your water system. Year round water quality monitoring, replacing aging or leaking pipes and pumps, and planning for growth are just some of the responsibilities of the District.

In order to ensure that your water is clean and safe, we test for contaminants all year long. The Department of Health and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Washington Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. We are proud to report that your water meets or exceeds all state and federal regulations. While some contaminants were found in the water, the Environmental Protection Agency has determined that your water is safe at these levels for you and your family. Keep in mind that the presence of contaminants doesn’t mean the water is unsafe. MCLs are set at very stringent levels. 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 health effect. Health related standards are set by the Washington State Department of Health. In addition to monitoring the quality of the water, SCWD#3 also works to make sure we are using water efficiently. We set water use efficiency goals for our system in 2008, updated them in 2015, and report our progress annually.

SYSTEM LEAKAGE BELOW 10% BY 2020 The District did not meet the 10% goal in 2017 due to water main and service line leakage. SCWD#3 will continue its aggressive approach to meet this goal through leak detection, repair and replacement of water mains and meters. In conjunction, production meters are read weekly and consumption meters are read 8 months per year. This information is used not only for billing, but reviewed for system loss and demands which help the District make informed decisions.

SCWD #3 DESIGNED REBATE BUDGET SCWD#3 has set aside an annual budget to provide rebates to commercial customers, public schools, and educational facilities for both low flow fixtures and landscaping efficiencies.

CONSERVATION ORIENTED RATE STRUCTURE SCWD#3 adjusted the second tier of the “inclining” rate structure in 2006 to provide an incentive for customers to reduce their water usage.
This report is provided to all of our customers. It describes your drinking water quality for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2017. Your water utility 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 reasonably be 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’s (EPA) 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.