

## 2023 Water Quality Report – Cascadia Water

### Water System: CAL Waterworks – Dept of Health System ID 310406 – Freeland, WA

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 a requirement of your water system by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies, to inform you of the water services that have been provided to you over the past year by the system.

#### **Is the water safe for everyone?**

All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least a small amount of some constituents. It is important to remember that the presence of these does not necessarily pose a health risk. 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, 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 guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 800-426-4791.

#### **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity:

- microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the WA 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 that must provide the same protection for public health.

#### **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. Cascadia Water 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>.

#### **Public meeting opportunities / How can I get involved?**

We do not have any regularly scheduled public meetings for your system. When a public meeting is scheduled in the future, we will send out notices and update our website with that information to give you advanced notice. To get involved, report water leaks and we will investigate. Catching leaks right away is the best way to conserve our aquifers.

#### **Where Does Our Water Come From?**

The groundwater source consists of two wells (called SO1 & SO2), which are in a confined aquifer. The well site is located off Pheasant Farm Lane. The water is pumped from the wells by submersible pumps and stored in an 80,000-gallon storage reservoir (constructed in 2023). Upon demand the water is distributed through the lines to your home by booster pumps and pressure tanks.

*If you have any questions about this report, the water test results or concerning your water utility, please email us at [info@cascadiawater.com](mailto:info@cascadiawater.com) or call (888) 235-0510 and ask for the general manager Culley Lehman.*

## Water Use Efficiency

Water Use Efficiency (WUE) is a measure of how much water is used by customers and other authorized uses compared to the quantity of water produced (pumped from wells). The difference between these two figures is the water lost through distribution system leakage (DSL). Water systems are asked to set goals for percent DSL (supply side efficiency) and for customer water use (demand side), and to work to accomplish those goals. On the supply side, our current goals are to reduce DSL below 9% percent by 2027. In 2023 DSL was 25.3 percent, and our 3-year rolling average is 17.1 percent.

## Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. *The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old.* In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table. We are pleased to report that Cascadia Water met all the federal and state drinking water standards last year for your system.

Total Coliform testing: **0** Unsatisfactory sample results in 2023

Substance	MCL	MCLG	Action Level	Your Water	Violation	Sample Date	Typical Sources of Contaminant in Drinking Water
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Arsenic (CCRU)	10	0	N/A	2.0	No	08/2023	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	N/A	4.77	No	08/2023	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks/sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2	2	N/A	0.006	No	08/2019	Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (CCRU)	100	100	N/A	2	No	08/2019	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (CCRU)	N/A	0	15	<1-2.4	No	08/2023	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits – results are range from 5 sample sites
Copper (ppm)	N/A	1.3	1.3	0.04-0.7	No	08/2023	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits – results are range from 5 sample sites
<b>Synthetic Organic Contaminants</b>							
PFAS (PER- & POLY-FLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCE 533) (CCRU)	2	2	2	ND	No	11/2023	Man-made chemicals that resist grease, oil, water, and heat that have been used in industry and consumer products since the '40s. Studies have shown that exposure to certain levels of PFAS can lead to various health problems (increased risk of certain cancers, developmental effects and reduced immune system).
<b>Radioactive components (Radionuclides)</b>							
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	N/A	5	N/A	0.237	No	12/2022	Erosion of natural deposits

## Important Drinking Water Definitions:

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	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.		
CCRU	Consumer Confidence Report Unit (actual units multiplied by 1000 for ease of comparison)		pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppm	parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)	N/A = Not Applicable	ND = Not/None Detected