


Your Water News Resource



Cottonwood
Water & Sanitation District

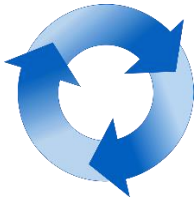
Here are our numbers so far in 2023...

NEARLY

75 

MILLION

GALLONS OF POTABLE WATER
DELIVERED TO OUR CUSTOMERS

99% 

WATER DEMANDS MET FROM LOCAL
RENEWABLE SOURCES*

TREATED @ THE JWPP
(REVERSE-OSMOSIS + MICRO FILTRATION
+ ADVANCE OXIDATION TECHNOLOGIES)

* 100% from Cherry Creek Alluvium

DEVELOPING

STORAGE 

FOR

DROUGHT SUPPLY*

UNDER CONSTRUCTION & EXPECTED TO
BEGIN OPERATIONS THIS FALL

* The Walker Reservoir and the infrastructure needed to operate it is on track for completion this fall. The District intends to use the supplies stored in the reservoir

to help us firm your water supplies during severe drought conditions. This new drought storage supply for summer use is the equivalent of 5 months (98,000,000 gallons of water) of our winter needs!

And the challenges to continuing to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water goes on...

As you may be aware by now, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) is on track to establish a much needed regulation on PFAS chemicals, also known as, forever chemicals. For decades now, those man-made chemicals have unfortunately found their way to almost everything we come in contact with, including our drinking water. Please read the back of the newsletter for additional information.

May 1st is Irrigation Season

Irrigating responsibly can conserve more water than almost any other effort a homeowner can do. Let’s work together on using such a vital resource in a sustainable and responsible manner! The EyeOnWater application is an effective tool to help you manage your outdoor water use.



**SMART
WATER
METERING**

NOW AVAILABLE &
FREE TO ALL CUSTOMERS

www.eyeonwater.com or scan
the QR Code on the left hand

Thank you and please contact us with any questions. Our staff looks forward to working with you!

PFAS in your Drinking Water

We have been working with our neighboring water provider partners, including the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), by providing additional samples of your drinking water supply – this will help us identify the levels of PFAS that need to be reduced in the drinking water, as well as the infrastructure required to meet the EPA's proposed maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for both drinking water and the land-applied waste resulting from the wastewater treatment process.

Until recently, the EPA required water providers nationwide to monitor PFAS through a lifetime health advisory limit, that suggested that levels in drinking water be at or below 70 ppt (parts per trillion). This meant that if the combined level of certain members of the PFAS family chemicals in drinking water exceeded 70 ppt, it could pose a potential health risk to humans who consumed the water over a lifetime.

The EPA's current proposal requires us to lower the combined PFAS levels in your drinking water to 4.0 ppt, down from the previous health advisory limit of 70 ppt. As part of this regulation, the EPA, through the CDPHE, established a sampling compliance schedule for the District, which involves multiple tests throughout the year. Again, this will help us identify where improvements to our treatment system need to be made to comply with the upcoming regulation.

Before the District began using the Joint Water Purification Plant (JWPP), our water source was almost entirely derived from the Arapahoe Aquifer, which is a finite source of water supply that had not been exposed to such chemicals. Conversely, the JWPP was designed to efficiently utilize our local renewable supplies from Cherry Creek, meaning that a) it allows us to offset the use of the Arapahoe Aquifer water and b) this new treatment process at the JWPP is fully exposed to PFAS chemicals.

The results from the first set of samples, completed by the District in March 2023, indicated that the levels of PFAS in your drinking water were below the 4.0 ppt threshold. This is due to lower potable demands during the winter months, hence the JWPP's treatment process which is a blend of Reverse-Osmosis (“RO”) and Micro-Filtration (“MF”) treatment, had a ratio of these two processes of approximately 70 % RO and 30% MF respectively. However, during the coming summer months, in order to deliver the water needed to meet our summer demands, this RO-MF ratio will drop to as low as 50 –50. We stand behind the new targets for PFAS in your drinking water and therefore, we are fully committed to continue to update you with our PFAS sample results throughout the year. In addition, we are developing a comprehensive PFAS study for the JWPP, in collaboration with our partner ACWWA, to fully vet our options for additional PFAS treatment in order to maintain the PFAS levels in your drinking water below the proposed MCL.

Please visit <https://cottonwoodwater.org> Home Page for additional information from the EPA.