

Three Lakes Water District Annual Update & CCR Report

Spring 2024

Dear Three Lakes Water District Water User:

Your Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) for the year is attached.

Tip: If you only read the bold type you will get the gist of the whole report in less than one minute.

Annual Update/Summary

The public Three Lakes Water District strives to meet or exceed all water quality, and regulatory requirements. As always, we ask that you never waste water, and continue abiding by the even - odd outdoor watering rules.

Want to be a future commissioner? If you or someone in your family is interested in investing normally about 8 hours per month in helping to maintain safe affordable drinking water, please attend one of our meetings for more information.

Even - Odd Outdoor Watering Rules

1. **Even / odd outdoor watering rules.** - People whose street address ends in an even number (0,2,4,6,8) should water outside on even numbered days of the month, and people whose street address ends in an odd number (1,3,5,7,9) should water outside on odd numbered days of the month.
2. **Please don't water during the heat of the day (11:00AM - 5:00PM).** - People with automatic sprinkler systems are to water at night (sometime between Sundown and Sunup). People who water manually are to water in early morning, or late evening.
3. **Adjust your outdoor watering based on need.** If you are not adjusting your outdoor watering based on need (i.e. checking and adjusting at least weekly based on temperature and rainfall) then you are probably not using your water efficiently.

The Three Lakes Water District exists to provide potable (drinkable) water to its users, but outdoor watering is by far the biggest water use in our district (about 70%). If everyone will be careful with their outdoor watering, we anticipate no need for additional water restrictions. On April 16, 2024, the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) declared a drought emergency for most of Washington state. The declaration was made due to low snowpack, below-average precipitation, and forecasts for a dry and warm spring and summer. The DOE declares a drought emergency when the state's water supply is less than 75% of normal and there is a risk of undue hardship for water users.

Legislative Update / Water Use Efficiency Rules

There are numerous laws that affect the use of drinking water in Washington State. Basically the laws say that all water belongs to the state and the state will decide how the water is allocated. Most of the newer laws have to do with: Managing Water Use (dictating the way water is used), Improving Water Usage Efficiency (forcing reduced usage), Reducing Leakage (mandating reduced loss), Reporting Requirements (requiring reporting), and additional usage fees. Water

Districts are required to develop a plan for meeting these goals and provide an annual progress report to the state. The Three Lakes Water District has committed to the overall goal to remain within our water use permit limits, and meet all other requirements, even through the continued build out of our service area. **Our goal is for all water users to use within the bottom tier of our logarithmically tiered rate structure. If you would like additional details, feel free to attend any of our regularly scheduled monthly meetings held on the second Tuesday of each month, at 5:30PM at 2898 W Malaga Road, Malaga, WA. These meetings are always open to the public. Our website is *threelakeswater.com*, and the Washington State web site is *www.wa.gov*.** The Water District may see additional expenses or additional user fees from the federal, state, or local, governments; if so, water rates will need to rise to cover those expenses.

Affiliations

Note: The Three Lakes Water District is a Special Purpose District that is not affiliated in any way with the Three Lakes Maintenance Corporation/Board, the Three Lakes Golf Course, the Malaga Water District, The Three Lakes Water Users, or the Three Lakes Water Association.

A reminder about septic tanks

Everything that goes down your drain goes into your septic tank and is injected under your lawn through your drain field. It all has the potential to eventually get into the ground water and our drinking water aquifer. So please be careful about what you may be adding to our aquifer. For example, it may be better to properly dispose your medications, rather than flush them down the toilet. And is having soft water really worth injecting a big bag of salt into the ground water every month or two? (Contamination is the biggest threat to our water, after government permitting.)

Emergencies

In an emergency (e.g. fire, earthquake, power outage, etc.) stop all nonemergency outdoor water usage to free up water for the emergency. The reason for this is that our tank holds almost 3 days' worth of water with only inside usage, but less than 8 hours' worth of water with high summer irrigation. Also, if the red light on top of our well house is flashing, it means we are having a problem with our system. You should immediately eliminate all outdoor water usage, and visit our web site *threelakeswater.com* for any possible emergency instructions.

Water Theft

The Three Lakes Water District is a 100% metered system. Any unauthorized water connection, or unauthorized use is theft. If you are aware of, or even suspect, that someone is using our water without authorization, we would appreciate you letting us know.

Chlorination

For years the Department of Health has required water systems that get some or all of their water from surface water sources to treat their water. The Department of Health now encourages systems that get some or all of their water from ground water sources that may be influenced by surface water, to treat their water. As a result, the Three Lakes Water District chlorinates at low levels.

Excess Water Usage Charges

The Three Lakes Water District has a tiered logarithmic rate structure (doubling at each step) that makes excess water users pay increasingly more for their water once they exceed tier 1. The far majority of our water users use water within the lowest tier and will see no additional excess water usage charges. But; **if you are one of the few that have gotten a letter from the water district telling you that you are using an excessive amount of water then you probably need to reduce your water usage to avoid additional excess water usage charges.**

Your Water Usage

Our normal water user used 170,000 gallons of water last year. If you would like to know how your water usage compares, you can contact us at 3lakeswater@charter.net.

GETTING HELP

Please do not tamper with your service connection (aka meter box). If you need your water service turned on or off, please contact Three Lakes Water District at 509-663-2551, or contact a commissioner.

Three Lakes Water District - Consumer Confidence Report

Spring 2024

Dear Three Lakes Water District water user,

Este informe contiene informacion importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien lo entienda.

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.

The Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) law requires water districts to give their customers a report annually explaining how their water system works, and what water tests are being done, to instill in the water user confidence that the water they are being provided is safe.

The Three Lakes Water District is a small Group A Public Water System in Washington State that provides potable (drinkable) water to 274 connections within the Three Lakes Water District boundary. The commissioners meet once a month, on the second Tuesday of each month, at 5:30PM, at 2898 W Malaga Road, Malaga WA 98828 to conduct business. These meetings are always open to the public, so feel free to attend. **If you would like to provide input into the dealings of the water district feel free to attend any of our regularly scheduled monthly meetings.**

The Three Lakes Water District supplies 100% groundwater and has two wells located on Tract B near the main entrance to Three Lakes.

METER BOXES

The individual property owners are responsible for everything on the usage side of the water meter, including backflow prevention if required. Generally speaking, backflow prevention is required if: You have an alternative source of water, if you have any kind of system where you can add chemicals to the water, if you have a swimming pool, or if you have any other connection with back flow potential. **If you have required backflow protection, then you are required to provide the water district with copies of the backflow equipment certifications annually.** Individual homeowners are responsible to maintain free access to the water meter by not covering it up with dirt, fencing, or shrubbery. **Please do not tamper with or drive on the water meter box.** If the homeowner damages the water meter or box, they can be charged for the repair. All customer water systems need to be connected outside the meter box. Any connections within two feet of the meter box must be inspected and approved by the water district.

We have a webpage at ***threelakeswater.com***; our email is: ***3lakeswater@charter.net***; our permanent mailing address is 2898 W Malaga Road, Malaga WA 98828; and the telephone number is (509) 663-2551. **If we need to change our internet service provider or phone #, we will put the info on our telephone recorded message and website.**

WATER CONSERVATION

- As always we request all of our users never to waste water.
- We want to thank our users who are already voluntarily conserving our precious natural resources and express our appreciation of your efforts. (The far majority of our users are conscientious.)
- Information on ways to conserve water, including Xeriscaping, and using indigenous plants is available on our web site at threelakeswater.com.

The presence of contaminants does not necessarily mean that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

Contaminants that may be present in raw or source water before it is treated are microbial contaminants, inorganic contaminants, pesticides and herbicides, radioactive contaminants, and organic chemical contaminants.

- ☐ Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which 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 storm water 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 agricultural and residential uses.
- ☐ Radioactive contaminants, which are naturally occurring.
- ☐ Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

Some people may be more vulnerable to drinking water contaminants than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as people 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/Center 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.

Additional statement required to be added to all water systems CCR reports

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. The Three Lakes Water District 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 drinking 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 (800) 426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Three Lakes Water District - CCR Report Spring 2023 Lab testing results							
NONE OF THE FOLLOWING SUBSTANCES TESTED EXCEEDED THE TRIGGER, AL OR THE MCL.							
INORGANIC CHEMICALS REPORT FOR NITRATES 7/6/2023							
DOH #	ANALYTES		RESULTS	UNITS	TRIGGER	MCL	Results in CCR units
114	Nitrite-N	<	0.10	mg/l	0.5	1	<7
20	Nitrate-N		0.41	mg/l	5	10	5.0
161	Total Nitrate/Nitrite		0.51	mg/l	-	10	5.0
NONE OF THE FOLLOWING SUBSTANCES TESTED EXCEEDED THE TRIGGER, AL OR THE MCL.							
INORGANIC CHEMICALS REPORT 6/10/2019 (excepting color)							
DOH #	ANALYTES		RESULTS	UNITS	TRIGGER	MCL	Results in CCR units
4	Arsenic		0.004	mg/l	0.01	0.01	4.1
5	Barium		0.007	mg/l	2	2	7
6	Cadmium	<	0.0001	mg/l	0.005	0.005	0.1

7	Chromium	<	0.001	mg/l	0.1	0.1	100	1.0
11	Mercury	<	0.0002	mg/l	0.002	0.002	2	0.2
12	Selenium	<	0.0005	mg/l	0.05	0.05	50	0.5
110	Beryllium	<	0.0001	mg/l	0.004	0.004	4	0.1
111	Nickel	<	0.0001	mg/l	0.1	0.1	100	0.01
112	Antimony	<	0.0001	mg/l	0.006	0.006	6	0.1
113	Thallium	<	0.0007	mg/l	0.002	0.002	2	0.7
116	Cyanide	<	0.01	mg/l	0.2	0.2	200	10
19	Fluoride		0.39	mg/l	4	4	40	3.9
20	Nitrate-N		0.35	mg/l	5	10	100	3.5
161	Total Nitrate/Nitrite		0.35	mg/l	-	10	100	3.5
114	Nitrite-N	<	0.07	mg/l	0.5	1	100	7
8	Iron	<	0.0097	mg/l	0.3	0.3	300	9.7
10	Manganese	<	0.0003	mg/l	n/a	0.05	50	0.3
13	Silver	<	0.0001	mg/l	n/a	0.1	100	0.1
21	Chloride		8.2	mg/l	n/a	250	250	8.2
22	Sulfate		10.5	mg/l	n/a	250	250	10.5
24	Zinc	<	0.0121	mg/l	5	5	500	1.2
14	Sodium		24.9	mg/l	--	n/a		
15	Hardness		155	mg/l	--	n/a		
16	Conductivity		400	umhos/cm	n/a	700	700	400
17	Turbidity	<	0.18	NTU	--	n/a		
18	Color		4	color units	n/a	15	15	4
26	Total Dissolved Solids		190	mg/l	n/a	500	500	190
9	Lead	<	0.0006	mg/l	0.015	N/A	15	0.6
23	Copper	<	0.0011	mg/l	1.3	N/A	130	0.11
404	Magnesium		14.2	mg/l				
405	Calcium		38.6	mg/l				
TTHM, HAA5 7/6/2023								
	TTHM		EPA Method	524.2	No trigger	80	80	0.5
	HAA5		EPA Method	552.2	No trigger	60	60	0.974
RADIONUCLIDE 5/5/21								
	RADIONUCLIDE		ANALYSES	REPORT	Method			
			Results		MCL	Lab MDA		
166	Radium 228		ND	pCi/L	# 904.0	5	0.5	
165	Gross Alpha		ND		#900		3.00	
VOLATILE ORGANIC CHEMICALS (VOC's) ANALYSIS REPORT EPA TEST METHOD 524.2 5/5/21								
Volatile Organic Chemical Analytes were tested and all were within limits.								
SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CHEMICALS (SOC's) ANALYSIS REPORT EPA TEST METHOD 531.2 10/09/05								
10 Synthetic Organic Chemical Analytes were tested and none were detected								
SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CHEMICALS (SOC's) ANALYSIS REPORT EPA TEST METHOD 515.1 10/30/14								
13 Synthetic Organic Chemical Analytes were tested and none were detected								
SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CHEMICALS (SOC's) ANALYSIS REPORT EPA TEST METHOD 525.2 10/09/05								
64 Synthetic Organic Chemical Analytes were tested and none were detected								
Bacteriological Samples were taken monthly.								
INORGANIC CHEMICALS (IOCS) LEAD & COPPER at residencies (90th percentile) 7/21/21								
EPA #	ANALYTES		RESULTS	UNITS	SRL	AL	AL in CCR units	Results in CCR units
200.7	copper		0.1941	mg/L	.02mg/L	1.3	13	1.94
200.9	lead		0.0008	mg/L	.001mg/L	0.015	15	0.80

Definitions:

AL (Action Level): the concentration which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's 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 expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MDA (Minimum Detectable Amount)

ND (Not Detected): in the results column indicates this compound was analyzed and not detected at a level greater than or equal to the SRL.

ppm=parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l) ppb=parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

The amounts of a contaminant allowed in drinking water are so small they are measured in ppm - equivalent to one penny in \$10,000; or ppb-equivalent to one penny in \$10,000,000.

SRL (State Reporting Level): indicates the minimum reporting level required by the Washington Department of Health (DOH)

Trigger Level: DOH Drinking Water response level. Systems with compounds detected at concentrations in excess of this level are required to take additional samples

<(0.001): Means less than a number. It also indicates that the compound was not detected in the sample at or above the concentration indicated.

Did you know? **The Three Lakes Water District users use about a football field 50 feet deep worth of water each year. Around 70% of that is used outside.**

Estimated Faucet Leakage Rates (number of drips): 60 drops/minute = 192 gallons/month, 90 drops/minute = 310 gallons/month, and 120 drops/minute = 429 gallons/month. Additional water facts and ideas for water conservation are available at: doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/331-450a.pdf.

Three Lakes Water District

2898 W Malaga Road

Malaga, WA 98828

threelakeswater.com

3lakeswater@charter.net

Recorded Message with current contact information (509) 663-2551

