



# COLUMBIA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT NEWS

*The office is open  
Mon, Wed and Fri  
from 8:00 am – 4:30  
pm (closed for lunch  
from 12:00–1:00 pm)*

*Please note we do  
not accept post  
dated checks. If a  
post dated check is  
received we will mail  
it back to the  
address on the  
check and your  
account may incur  
late fees.*

*District meetings are  
every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday  
of the month at 7:00  
pm at the District  
office. They are  
open to the public  
and everyone is  
encouraged to  
attend.*

## **HYDRANT FLUSHING IS STARTING SOON**

Every so often, Columbia Valley Water District staff open fire hydrants around the District and allow the water to flow through the pipes. Our hydrant flushing program is very important to our water system. It is an integral part of our ongoing effort to deliver the safest and highest quality water possible. It serves the following purposes:

- It flushes sediments from mainline pipes (which enhances water quality)
- It verifies the proper operation of fire hydrants and valves
- It helps us find weaknesses in our water system
- It checks for closed valves and weak flows in the mainlines

## **HYDRANT FLUSHING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **WHY IS HYDRANT FLUSHING NECESSARY?**

Hydrant flushing enhances water quality by flushing sediment from the mainline pipes, verifies the proper operation of hydrants and valves, and maintains firefighting capability.

### **WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN COLUMBIA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT IS FLUSHING HYDRANTS IN MY AREA?**

If you see a crew flushing a hydrant on your street, avoid running tap water and using the washing machine or the dishwasher until the flushing is done. If you see hydrant flushing crews working in the area, please drive carefully and treat them like any other road construction crew.

### **WHAT SHOULD I DO AFTER HYDRANT FLUSHING?**

- If tap water is used during flushing, it could come out full of sediment that causes discoloration. If you encounter discolored water, shut the water off and wait several minutes. After waiting, check the clarity by running cold water for a few minutes, allowing new water to work its way into your pipes. If the water is clear, it's okay to use. If not, let cold water run for several minutes to help clear it up. In some cases, there may be slight discoloration for a few hours. This discoloration only affects the appearance of the water; it does not affect the taste or water quality.
- Avoid washing laundry during scheduled flushing times. Wait until the water runs clear at the tap, then wash a load of dark clothes first.
- If pressure or volume seems low, check your faucet screens for trapped particles.

### **WHY DOES MY WATER LOOK FUNNY AFTER HYDRANT FLUSHING?**

When a hydrant is opened, there will be temporary incidences of discolored water while fine sediment particles are flushed out. There is no health hazard associated with the discolored water. Allow a few hours for discoloration to dissipate. To verify water is clear, run your cold-water tap for a few minutes.

