



# IT'S ALL ABOUT THE WATER

## PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

The District provides water service to 1,566 properties. Monthly water service fees are the sole source of revenue to operate the water system. The fees fund costs related to system operations, capital projects, debt service, administration, as well as costs related to prudent long-term operational or financial management of the water system, such as maintaining adequate fund reserves and planning for contingencies.

This year the District contracted with an independent consultant to perform a rate study to review the finances of the District and evaluate if the existing water rates are sufficient to fund the District's current and future financial needs. The results of the study and any proposed changes to the water rates will be given at a public hearing on July 23, 2014 at 6:30 pm at the District office. The hearing will provide time for the public to ask questions or offer comments about the proposed rates. Anyone who is interested is encouraged to attend. If you cannot attend the meeting, but would like to comment on the proposed rates, please submit your comments in writing to the District office by mail or email: [admin@ewsd19.com](mailto:admin@ewsd19.com). If you have any questions, please contact the office at (360)599-1699.



## News for: JULY 2014

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## DISTRICT MEETING CHANGES

Starting in August the District's monthly regular meeting will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm at the District office. The meetings are open to the public and anyone interested is encouraged to attend.

## METER BOX ACCESS

Most water meter boxes are located in a utility easement along the front of the property. Property owners are responsible for maintain a clear pathway to and around the water meter. District policy provides guidelines for customers to follow that will allow our staff to quickly find and read, or perform repairs on your meter.

As you maintain your yard or garden, take time to check the area around the water meter box. Please keep a two-foot area around all sides of the meter box clear. The path from the road to the meter box (regardless of its location) should also be cleared to a minimum of two-feet wide and six-feet high.

Please do not park cars or place any debris on top of the meter box. If your meter does not meet the minimum clearance requirements, you will be notified in writing. Failure to meet the minimum requirements after written communication has been sent may result in fees applied to your account. Please contact the District office at (360)599-1699, should you have any questions.

## FIRE HYDRANT MAINTENANCE

There are over 70 fire hydrants within the CVWD water system and while fire hydrants are a familiar sight, we should all be aware of their importance to the community – not only for firefighting, but also for operation and maintenance of the water system.

Routine maintenance of the fire hydrants is CVWD's responsibility. Routine maintenance is important to assure the continued proper operation of hydrants. Some of the maintenance work includes flushing the hydrant, testing the water pressure, and weeding around the hydrants.

The District has begun the annual fire hydrant maintenance and flushing. During this time you may see District personnel spraying the weeds around a hydrant. To help protect the water system from contaminants and addressing community concerns, the District began using an all organic chemical concentrate made from plant oils to control the weeds. If you would like to receive more information on the weed killer that the District is using, please contact the office.

Residents are reminded not to obstruct hydrants from view or to impede access by water district personnel or by firefighters in case of an emergency. Do not park cars in front of a hydrant, plant shrubs near hydrants or fence in a hydrant. Following these simple rules will help to ensure everyone's safety.



### Did you know.....

That it takes approximately one gallon of water to process a quarter pound of hamburger.

*Have you seen the new website? Go to [www.cv-wd.com](http://www.cv-wd.com) to pay your bill, sign up for paperless billing, and discover a variety of water information.*

## **HYDRANT FLUSHING IS IN PROGRESS**

At least once every year 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.

### **HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO DO THE HYDRANT FLUSHING?**

The District has over 70 hydrants within the water system and all of them will be flushed. Though the District will make every effort to complete the flushing as quickly as possible, the process may take up to 4 weeks to complete. We will continue to post the flushing signs at each entrance while we are flushing. When the flushing is complete we will remove the signs. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact District staff at (360)599-1699.