

Soos Creek Water and Sewer District

2014 Annual Water Quality Report

This publication is federally mandated in order to inform customers of the quality of their drinking water.

Where Does Our Water Come From?

Soos Creek Water and Sewer District (SCWSD) is proud to provide you with water that meets or exceeds all federal drinking water quality standards.

The Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) Cedar River Watershed supplies 100% of this high quality water. This surface water source is located in a remote and uninhabited area of the Cascade Mountains. Rain and snow runoff from the Cascades is held in lakes in the watershed. The Cedar River Watershed is publicly owned and SPU has an aggressive watershed plan to protect it. Agricultural and industrial activities are not allowed. Access to the watershed is restricted to appropriate staff and educational programs conducted by SPU staff.

This pristine water is screened, disinfected with chlorine, and fluoridated. A small amount of lime is also added to control corrosion to pipes. Ozonation (a form of oxygen used for disinfection) improves taste, and ultraviolet light (UV) kills disease causing *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* in the water. The water is then piped or pumped into SCWSD reservoirs and distribution mains which brings the water to area homes and businesses.

For more information:

www.seattle.gov/util/services/Water/Water_Quality

www.sooscreek.com

www.epa.gov/safewater/

www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/

www.savingwater.org

Public Meeting Information:

The Board of Commissioners meets every 1st, 3rd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m. If you would like to be on the agenda for these meetings or have questions regarding this report, please call 253-630-9900.

Visit our web site at www.sooscreek.com

Water Quality

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Dept. of Health (DOH) and the Environmental Protection Agency (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 WA Dept. of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).



RICK TEST
123 MAIN STREET
KENT WA 98042-5162

13889 1 AV 0.388 14055 / 13889 45-45-316

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE
PAID
AFTS

Soos Creek Water & Sewer District
14616 SE 192nd St.
P.O. Box 58039
Renton, WA 98058-1039
(253) 630-9900

Monitoring

Seattle Public Utilities staff monitors the source water, treatment processes, and distribution system water quality 365 days a year. Different parameters are monitored and analyzed at varying frequencies - generally daily, monthly, quarterly, or annually, in accordance with Federal and State regulations. Some elements of the treatment process are monitored continuously. The data, contained in the tables below, reflect the 2014 compliance data for Seattle Public Utilities and Soos Creek Water and Sewer District. If sampling was not required in 2014, levels indicated are for the most recent monitoring conducted. Our 2014 routine water quality monitoring did not identify the presence of any contaminants at established levels of concern for the general consumers.

2014 Water Quality Data

Detected Compounds	Units of Measure	EPA's Limits		Level's in Your Water		Typical Sources
		MCLG	MCL	Average	Range	
Raw Water						
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	NA	TT	0.9	0.4 to 1.9	Naturally present in the environment.
Cryptosporidium*	#/100L	NA	NA	ND	ND	Naturally present in the environment.
Finished Water						
Turbidity	NTU	NA	TT	0.4	0.2 - 1.6	Soil runoff.
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.8	0.7 - 0.8	Water additive, which promotes strong teeth.
Barium	ppb	2000	2000	1.4	(one sample)	Erosion of natural deposits.
Chlorine	ppm	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	0.95	0.22 - 1.82	Water additive used to control microbes.
Trihalomethanes (TTHM) [^]	ppb	NA	80	31 [^]	20.2 — 42.6 [^]	By-products of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids(HAA5) [^]	ppb	NA	60	37 [^]	23.1 — 47.4 [^]	By-products of drinking water chlorination.
Coliform, Total	%	0	5%	Highest Month 1.87%	Annual Average 0.33%	Naturally present in the environment

*Cryptosporidium is a parasite commonly found in lakes and rivers that can cause gastro-intestinal disease. In 2014 Cryptosporidium was not detected in any samples collected in the Cedar river supply.

[^] Results from SCWSD Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Routine Monitoring in 2014

Lead and Copper Monitoring Results (Cedar WSA)

Parameter and Units	MCLG	Action level ⁺	2012 results [^]	Exceeding Action level	SCWSD 2012 results	SCWSD Homes exceeding Action	Source
Lead, ppm	0	15	3.6	0 of 52	.0043	0 of 17	Corrosion of household
Copper, mg/L	1.3	1.3	0.096	0 of 52	.063	0 of 17	plumbing systems.

[^]90th Percentile: i.e. 90 percent of the samples were less than the values shown.

⁺ The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring (UCMR 3)* Results from SCWSD 2013 Monitoring

Detected Compounds	Units of Measure	MCL	Reported Level	Range
Chromium 6 ⁺	ppb	NA	0.17	0.085 – 0.17
Strontium	ppb	NA	32	26 - 32
Vanadium	ppb	NA	0.63	0.35 - 0.63
Chromium	ppb	NA	0.27	0.26 - 0.27

* Unregulated contaminants monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

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.

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.

MRDL: *Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level* - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG: *Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal* - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

TT: *Treatment Technique* - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

NTU: *Nephelometric Turbidity Unit* - Turbidity is a measure of how clear the water looks. The turbidity MCL that applied to the Cedar supply in 2014 is 5 NTU.

NA: *Not Applicable* ND: *Not Detected*

ppm: 1 part per million = 1mg/L = 1 milligram per liter ppb: 1 part per billion = 1ug/L = 1 microgram per liter 1ppm = 1000ppb

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. SCWSD 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>.

The Dept. of Health (DOH) conducted a source water assessment to determine potential contaminant sources. According to DOH, all surface waters in Washington are given a susceptibility rating of "high," regardless of whether contaminants have been detected or whether there are any sources of contaminants in the watershed. Information on the source water assessments is available from the DOH website, at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw.default.htm>. Some potential natural sources of contamination include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses, bacteria, and protozoa from wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which are naturally occurring.
- Organic contaminants, which result from chlorine combining with the naturally occurring organic matter.

TO OUR SOOS CREEK WATER CUSTOMERS:

Soos Creek Water and Sewer District purchases its water from Seattle Public Utilities (SPU).

In light of the Governor's recent declaration of a statewide drought, we offer the following information:

1. **Seattle, Tacoma, and Everett's water supplies are good, despite the statewide drought declaration.** SPU understands that many areas of our state are facing drought conditions. In our area, though, we are fortunate that our water supply outlook remains good. We have been storing additional water from rainfall in our reservoirs and they are nearly full and in good shape for the summer demand. Ground water wells also support our water supplies.
2. **The water SPU supplies are good for fish, too.** We provide guaranteed instream flows throughout the year for fish.
3. **How did SPU manage water supply in the face of a low-snowpack year?** Our water supply systems are designed and managed to collect runoff from rainfall and snowmelt and we made operational changes in our system to capture and re-lease water throughout the year and move it through our water supply systems.
4. **How can customer's help?** Although saving water in this region unfortunately won't help our neighbors in drought-stricken parts of the state we continue to ask our customers to use water wisely as they would in any other year.
5. **SPU has been planning for climate change.** This year's low snowpack represents one scenario of climate change in the future. We may be getting less snowpack in the future and we are continuing to develop management methods and tools to become less reliant on it. As the snowpack decreases, we will rely more on rainfall for supply.

Websites for additional information:

<http://www.seattle.gov/util/MyServices/Water/AbouttheWaterSystem/index.htm>

<http://www.mytpu.org/tacomawater/water-source/>

<https://everettwa.gov/444/Water>

Healthy Rivers, Fish, and You

May and June signal the start of summer, and peak water use season – the time when rain stops and people use more water in their yards and gardens. It's especially important to use water wisely in summer and fall, when stream flows are lowest. Your actions can save money on your water bill and protect salmon and their freshwater habitat. And if you want to see salmon in the streams, look for the Salmon Season campaign this summer and fall for the latest on when and where the fish will be. Thank you for using water wisely!

The Regional Conservation Program

The Saving Water Partnership (SWP) which is made up of Soos Creek Water & Sewer District (SCWSD) and its 18 water utility partners has set a six-year conservation goal: reduce per capita use from current levels so that the SWP's total average annual retail water use is less than 105 mgd from 2013 through 2018 despite forecasted population growth. For 2014, the Saving Water Partnership met the goal, using 93.8 mgd.

SCWSD purchased 1.4 billion gallons of water in 2014. Of this, approximately 37.3 million gallons was lost to distribution system leakage (DSL). Expressed as percentage of water supplied to SCWSD's service area, the unaccounted water loss rate was 2.6%.

The Washington State Department of Health's Water Use Efficiency Rule requires a 10% or less DSL based on a 3-year rolling average. SCWSD is in compliance with this standard.

Highlights of the regional conservation program in 2014 include:

- The SWP focused on youth education in 2014, conducting 270 in-classroom presentations for nearly 6,800 K-12 grade students. Topics included water efficiency, the water cycle, the salmon life cycle, water-wise gardening and the water supply system. The program is a big hit with teachers and students.
- The SWP provided rebates for Premium WaterSense toilets for residential and commercial customers. These fixtures use 1.06 gallons of water per flush, at least 20% less water than a Regular WaterSense fixture.
- The Single Family Toilet Rebate Program processed nearly 100 Premium WaterSense and nearly 400 Regular WaterSense rebates.
- The Multifamily Toilet Replacement Program upgraded nearly 800 toilets to Premium WaterSense models, and nearly 300 toilets to Regular WaterSense models.
- The SWP completed financial incentive projects to upgrade water-using equipment in 63 businesses in 2014. Two large hotels replaced a total of 360 toilets with Premium WaterSense models.
- The SWP presented 14 Savvy Gardener classes at five locations in Spring and Fall 2014 with 300 attendees. These classes were designed to inspire, create, and maintain healthy, water-efficient landscapes.

Conservation Tips

Here are some great ways to use water wisely:

- Check for leaks and fix them as soon as you can – follow our step-by-step videos at www.savingwater.org or call 206-684-SAVE (7283) to learn more.
- Get a \$75 rebate for replacing old toilets with Premium WaterSense-labeled toilets. The average home can save up to \$200 on your water bills, depending on household size and existing toilets. Premium WaterSense labeled toilets use 1.06 gallons of water per flush compared to older toilets that use up to 5 gallons per flush. Not only do these toilets save water with every flush, they are proven to perform by independent laboratory testing.
- Use less water in your garden by putting a thick layer of mulch around your plants.
- Follow us on Facebook for the latest news on ways to have a beautiful landscape without overwatering or overworking <http://www.facebook.com/savvygardenernews>
- For advice in your garden: call the Garden Hotline at (206) 633-0224 or e-mail help@gardenhotline.org.

Visit www.savingwater.org for information on rebates, conservation tips, videos on fixing leaks and efficient landscaping practices, and more.