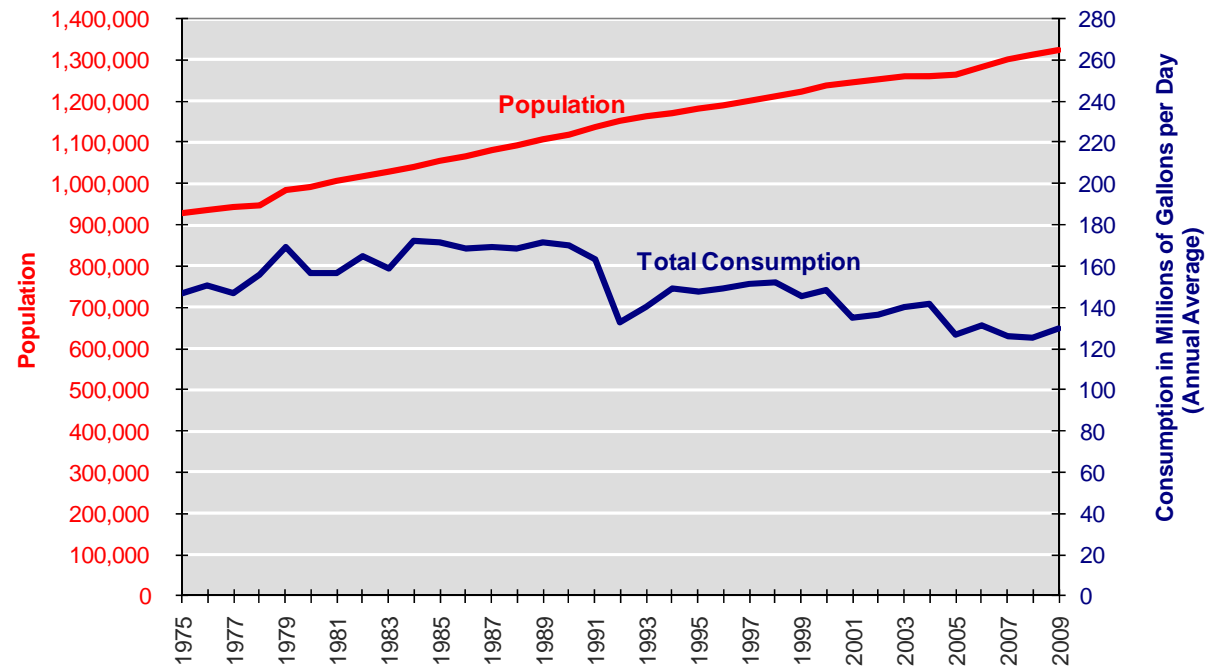


Soos Creek Water and Sewer District

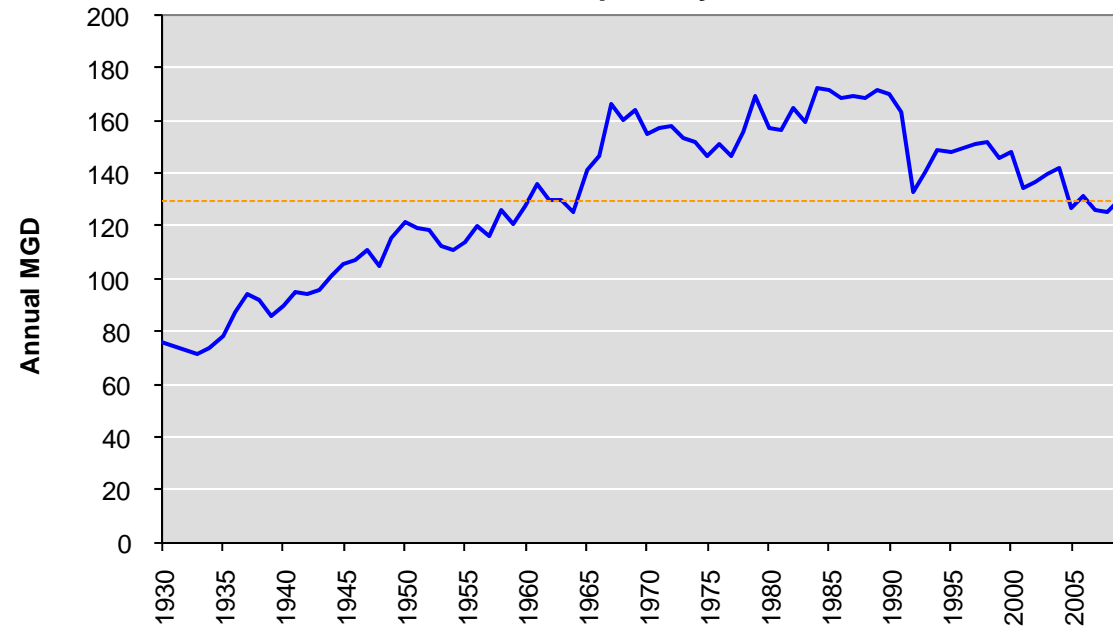
2009 Annual Water Quality Report

This publication is federally mandated in order to inform customers of the quality of their drinking water. This report contains information and data for the year 2009.

**Growth in Population and Water Consumption
Seattle Regional Water System: 1975-2009**



**Total Seattle Regional Water System Annual Demand
in Millions of Gallon per Day: 1930-2009**



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).

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 2009 compliance data for Seattle Public Utilities and Soos Creek Water and Sewer District. If sampling was not required in 2009, levels indicated are for the most recent monitoring conducted. Our 2009 routine water quality monitoring did not identify the presence of any contaminants at established levels of concern for the general consumers.

2009 Water Quality Data

Detected Compounds	Units	EPA's Allowable Limits		Level's in Cedar Finished Water		Typical Sources
		MCLG	MCL	Average	Range	
Turbidity	NTU	NA	TT	0.4	0.2 - 2.6	Soil runoff.
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.98	0.9 - 1.0	Water additive, which promotes strong teeth.
Barium	ppb	2000	2000	1.2	(one sample)	Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.07	(one sample)	Erosion of natural deposits.
Chlorine	ppm	MRDLG=4	MRDL =4	1.08	0.12 - 1.70	Water additive used to control microbes.
Trihalomethanes	ppb	NA	80	26.11	8.53 - 40.6	By-products of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids(5)	ppb	NA	60	24.59	13.5 - 33.7	By-products of drinking water chlorination.
Total Coliform	%	0	5%	Highest Month = 1.92% Annual Average = 0.33%		Naturally present in the environment.

Definitions:

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 2009 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
 *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.

Lead and Copper Monitoring Results (Cedar)

Parameter and Units	MCLG	Action Level +	2009 results	# Homes exceeding Action Level	SCWSD 2009 results	SCWSD Homes exceeding Action Level 2009 results	Source
Lead ppm	0	15	6.3	3 of 53	.0016	0 of 18	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper mg/L	1.3	1.3	0.10	0 of 53	.044	0 of 18	

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>.

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a parasite commonly found in lakes and rivers that can cause gastro-intestinal disease. In 2009, *Cryptosporidium* was detected in 0 of 4 samples collected in the Cedar river supply.

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.

Water Conservation

Conserving water year-round is great for many reasons. It helps us to be prepared for the uncertainties of climate change, drought years and low snow levels, it helps us steward drinking water supplies, and it helps people manage their water bills.

What you do to conserve helps salmon, too. Healthy rivers with ample clean water are essential for healthy salmon populations. Everything you do to use water wisely – washing full loads, turning off the faucet, taking shorter showers, choosing plants that are right for the site, watering the lawn no more than it needs – helps keep water in our rivers and streams. Conserving is especially important in the summer and early fall, when river flows are lowest.

Soos Creek Water and Sewer District (SCWSD) is a member of the Saving Water Partnership, a group of 18 local utilities that has adopted a regional water conservation goal of 11.0 million gallons per day (mgd) by 2010. In 2009, the Regional 1% Program achieved an estimated 0.61 mgd of water savings. Since the beginning of the Program in 2000, the Program has achieved an estimated cumulative savings of 9.0 mgd toward the cumulative 2010 target of 11 mgd. That's enough water to serve a city the size of Renton or Bellingham.

The Saving Water Partnership offers customers many ways to conserve. Cash rebates are available for:

- Single family residential customers: High-efficiency clothes washers (WashWise), Automatic sprinkler system upgrades.
- Multifamily property owners: Toilet rebates, Showerheads and aerators, Coin-op laundry, WashWise washers in multifamily buildings, Sprinkler systems.
- Business customers: Cooling and refrigeration systems, Commercial flush valve toilets and urinals, Commercial tank toilets, Commercial laundry, Conventional food steamers, Medical equipment, Sprinkler systems, Process water improvements, Other water use technologies.
- New construction and major remodels: High-Efficiency toilets and urinals, Showerheads and aerators, Clothes washers in multifamily buildings, Coin-op laundry, Time of use data collection, Sprinkler systems, Other qualified technologies.

Some highlights of the regional conservation program in 2009 include:

- The Multifamily Toilet Replacement Program has upgraded 30,000 toilets since 2000.
- The WashWise program has processed more than 85,000 rebates since 2000.
- Commercial businesses replaced nearly 4,000 bathroom fixtures in 2009 alone.
- A large irrigation project took place, (The City of Mercer Island) in which 12 parks upgraded to weather-based sprinkler controllers. This is resulting in significant water and labor savings, because the old controllers required on-site adjustment to the watering schedules. The new controllers automatically adjust the watering schedules based on plants' changing water needs.

Our water consumption is as low as it was in the early 1960s, even though our population has grown by more than sixty percent. This is because our consumption has continued to decline since 2000.

SCWSD purchased 1.59 billion gallons of water in 2009. Of this, less than 153.8 million gallons was lost to leakage. Expressed as percentage of water supplied to SCWSD's service area, the leakage rate was 9.7%.

Here are some things you can do to help conserve water and manage your utility bills:

Top 3 things you can do indoors

- Replacing an old toilet with a new WaterSense model saves an average household 30 gallons per day.
- Upgrading an old clothes washer to a new WashWise qualified machine saves an average household 15 gallons per day. Plus the machines save energy, use less detergent, and are gentle on clothes.
- Fixing leaks saves an average of 10 gallons per day per household. You should check your toilet for leaks once a year. Visit www.savingwater.org to find out how.

Top 3 things you can do in your yard

- Match plants to the conditions in your yard – if you have wet, shady areas, choose plants that thrive there. Same with dry, sunny areas. If plants are well-suited to their place in your yard, you won't need to water them so much.
- Healthy soil holds water well and gives plants the nutrients they need to stay beautiful. Add compost and mulch to your beds in spring and fall.
- When you water, make sure the water gets to the roots, where plants need it. Drip irrigation systems avoid shooting water up into the air, where much of it evaporates. If you have an automatic sprinkler system, tune it up now so it's not leaking or sprouting geysers in the summer.

For additional information on how you can conserve water or to find out about appliance, irrigation, and other rebates, please go to www.savingwater.org or call (206) 684-SAVE (7283). For answers to questions about conserving water in your yard, please call the Garden Hotline at (206) 633-0224 or e-mail help@gardenhotline.org. Business customers can contact the Resource Venture at (206) 343-8505 or www.resourceventure.org.

Thank you for all you're doing to conserve water! Many of these practices save energy and protect the water quality of Puget Sound.