



"SERVING THE PUBLIC BY PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT"

# PCJWSA ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

June 2000  
Volume 1, Issue 1

## ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER 72 MILLION GALLONS OF WATER

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### DID YOU KNOW?

The Pacific City Joint Water-Sanitary Authority Board of Directors meets the first Tuesday of every month at 5:00 PM in the Authority's office located at 34005 Cape Kiwanda Dr. Pacific City, Oregon. The public is invited to attend!

Call Tony Owen at 503-965-6636 with any questions you may have about **your** utility!

PCJWSA Directors:

- Doug Kellow – Chair
- Dick Carter – Vice Chair
- Doug Olson – Secretary
- George Baumgardner—  
Director
- Robert Rissel—Director

*Believe it or don't, PCJWSA produces about 72,000,000 gallons of drinking water every year!. Wow! That's an average of 77 gallons per person, per day, each and every day of the year!*

*In this year's annual report, you'll have an opportunity to review some of the same great information we provided in last year's edition. Plus!, we've also added some exciting new information about your public water system that will, hopefully, help keep your interest piqued. We won't tell you where all that exciting new information is though, you'll just have to read the entire edition and find out for yourself! After all, its your water system and this report affords all of our customers a unique opportunity to learn more about it and some of the things PCJWSA has been doing since the last report.*

*As you will notice in the following pages,*

### GROUNDWATER, RESERVOIRS, RATE INCREASES, AND BOND LEVIES?

*PCJWSA draws its water from two separate well fields that we refer to as the "dune wells " and the "spit wells". So named because the "dune wells" are at the base of a large sand dune north of our office on Cape Kiwanda Drive, and "spit wells" because they are on the Nestucca State Spit at*

*our drinking water is safe and meets Federal and State requirements. We have attempted to make this report as straight forward, easy to read and understandable as possible while still complying with Federal requirements for this report. The water quality test results in the following tables reflect the latest data available from testing performed in July 1999. At this time, regu-*

*lations require PCJWSA to monitor for most of these contaminants once every 4 years. PCJWSA tests 2 water samples each month for total coliform. Annually, we test for lead/copper and nitrates. Asbestos, which was not detected in our water, is tested once every nine years. In June of 2000 we will be testing our water for the presence of radioactive constituents as required by Federal Regulations.*

*We hope you find this second edition of the PCJWSA Annual Water Quality Report useful and informative. If you have additional questions or ideas for what you may want to see in next year's report, contact Tony Owen at 503-965-6636. However, you may have questions that we cannot adequately address. If so, we will refer you to the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.□□□*



How many billion drops of water would it take to make 72,000,000 gallons?

*the end of Sunset Drive. "Spit" refers to a peninsula, not the other thing you're thinking.*

*The two sites have 3 wells each, for a total of 6 wells. Each well produces water at the rate of about 100 gallons per minute. Well water is also referred to as ground-water.*

*Federal Regulations involving the use of groundwater as drinking water are changing. The EPA has recently proposed new rules which would require states and water systems to establish multiple barriers to better protect groundwater sources against contamina-*  
*(See Groundwater on page 2)*





# DEFINITIONS

*In the following tables you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:*

*Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.*

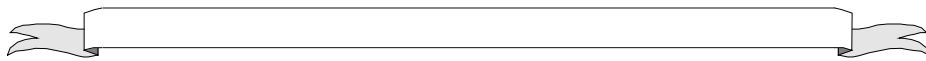
*Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.*

*Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.*

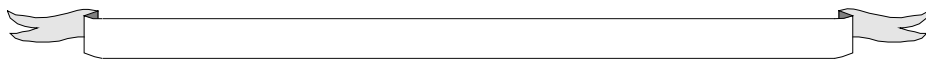
*Action Level (AL) - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.*

*Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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.*

*Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.*



***Pacific City Joint Water-Sanitary Authority  
is pleased to report that your drinking wa-  
ter meets or exceeds all standards set for  
quality and safety.***





<i>Contaminant</i>	<i>Violation Y/N</i>	<i>Level Detected</i>	<i>Unit Measure</i>	<i>MCLG</i>	<i>MCL</i>	<i>Likely Source(s) of Contamination</i>
<i>Nitrite</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>&lt;0.01</i>	<i>ppm</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits</i>
<i>Selenium</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>&lt;2.0</i>	<i>ppb</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines</i>
<i>Thallium</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>&lt;1.0</i>	<i>ppb</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass and drug factories</i>
<b><i>VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</i></b>						
<i>Benzene</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>&lt;0.5</i>	<i>ppb</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Discharge from factories; leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills</i>
<i>Carbon Tetrachloride</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>&lt;0.5</i>	<i>ppb</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities</i>
<i>Chlorobenzene</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>&lt;0.5</i>	<i>ppb</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories</i>
<i>o-Dichlorobenzene</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>&lt;0.5</i>	<i>ppb</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>Discharge from industrial chemical factories</i>
<i>p-Dichlorobenzene</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>&lt;0.5</i>	<i>ppb</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>Discharge from industrial chemical factories</i>
<i>1,2 - Dichloroethane</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>&lt;0.5</i>	<i>ppb</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Discharge from industrial chemical factories</i>
<i>1,1 - Dichloroethylene</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>&lt;0.5</i>	<i>ppb</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Discharge from industrial chemical factories</i>
<i>cis-1,2 - Dichloroethylene</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>&lt;0.5</i>	<i>ppb</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>Discharge from industrial chemical factories</i>
<i>trans - 1,2 - Dichloroethylene</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>&lt;0.5</i>	<i>ppb</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>Discharge from industrial chemical factories</i>
<i>Dichloromethane</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>&lt;0.5</i>	<i>ppb</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories</i>
<i>1,2 - Dichloropropane</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>&lt;0.5</i>	<i>ppb</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Discharge from industrial chemical factories</i>
<i>Ethylbenzene</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>&lt;0.5</i>	<i>ppb</i>	<i>700</i>	<i>700</i>	<i>Discharge from petroleum refineries</i>
<i>Styrene</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>&lt;0.5</i>	<i>ppb</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; leaching from landfills</i>
<i>Tetrachloro- ethylene</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>&lt;0.5</i>	<i>ppb</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Leaching from PVC pipes; discharge from factories and dry cleaners</i>
<i>1,2,4 - Trichlorobenzene</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>&lt;0.5</i>	<i>ppb</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>Discharge from textile-finishing factories</i>
<i>1,1,1, - Trichloroethane</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>&lt;0.5</i>	<i>ppb</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories</i>
<i>1,1,2 - Trichloroethane</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>&lt;0.5</i>	<i>ppb</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories</i>

	Violation	Level	Unit			Likely Source(s) of Contamination
Contaminant	Y/N	Detected	Measure	MCLG	MCL	
Trichloroethylene	N	<0.5	ppb	0	5	Discharge from metal degreasing and other factories
Toluene	N	<0.005	ppm	1	1	Discharge from petroleum factories
Vinyl Chloride	N	<0.5	ppb	0	2	Leaching from PVC Piping; discharge from plastics factories
Xylenes	N	<0.0005	ppm	10	10	Discharge from petroleum factories discharge from chemical factories

Sodium— EPA does not have a MCL for sodium in drinking water, but EPA does issue a recommended level of 20 PPM. The analysis for sodium at the Dune Wells showed levels at 34 PPM and at the Spit Wells, 36 PPM. People on low sodium diets may need to make adjustments to their diet in order to compensate for the sodium levels in their drinking water.

Sulfate—The MCL for sulfate is 250 PPM. Sulfate at the Dune Wells was 5.3 PPM. Spit Wells—3.5 PPM.

#### *Lead and Copper Rule Testing*

*The 1994 Federal Lead & Copper Rule mandates a household testing program for these substances. According to the rule, 90% of the samples from the homes tested must have levels less than 0.015 milligrams per liter of lead and 1.3 milligrams per liter of copper. In 1999, the 90th percentile for lead in homes tested in Pacific City was 0.0122 mg per liter and 1.395 mg per liter for copper. Of the 10 homes tested, none exceeded the allowable lead level and two exceeded the allowable copper level. Because of this, the Oregon Health Division may require PCJWSA to begin corrosion control and/or pH control at the two well sites. PCJWSA has submitted a proposed plan to the Health Division and is currently awaiting the Division's comments.*

*Lead. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficiencies in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.*

*Copper. Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short period of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.*

*Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people 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 for 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.*

Okay, now onto everyone's favorite, Q & A.

Q. I haven't heard anything recently about funding for the street lights. What's going on?

A. Beginning with the July 2000 utility bills, PCJWSA will begin assessing a monthly surcharge of \$0.54 per user to pay for the street lights. The majority of people responding to our question of preferred funding methods said, " a monthly surcharge." So, that's what we'll do. This rate could increase if additional street lights are added to our inventory.

Q. How much will my monthly water and sewer bill increase after July 1, 2000 and what is the money being used for?

A. As stated earlier, PCJWSA is proposing a \$2.00 per month increase for water system improvements. Combined with the \$0.54 per month for street lights, the total monthly increase will

# AND IN CLOSING.....

amount to \$2.54 per user. The proposed \$2.00 per month increase will be used to fund minor water system improvements. The money goes directly to the Water Capital Improvement Fund and will not be used for day-to-day operational expenses such as salaries or maintenance items. If approved, the increase will be reflected beginning with the July 2000 monthly bill.

Q. I don't understand what I'm suppose to do in order to comply with the new "Cross Connection Control Program." Can you give me a simple explanation please?

A. Certainly! In essence, there are 4 basic steps involved to be in compliance with this program: 1. The preliminary inspection; 2. The installation; 3. The final inspection and testing; and 4. The annual re-test.

During the preliminary inspection, PCJWSA evaluates the site and notifies the property owner of the type of assembly to be installed and location for installation. Do not attempt to install a backflow assembly until PCJWSA has performed the preliminary inspection. We may require that the assembly be moved or a different type be installed! Please contact our office to schedule an inspection.

Installation of the assembly can be performed by the homeowner, or if contracted, it must be done by a plumber licensed to perform the work in the State of Oregon. PCJWSA has contracted with Ben Graham of West Coast Plumbing, here in Pacific City, in order to provide our customers with installation services at a reasonable rate. Call our office for more information.

The final inspection and testing is performed by PCJWSA and assures us that the backflow assembly has been installed properly and is functioning correctly.

Annually, you will receive a notice for re-test of the assembly. We will provide you with the names of various testers , qualified to perform the test. As with the plumbing services, PCJWSA may be contracting with a tester to provide this service to our customers at the lowest possible cost. We'll let you know if and when we do this!

Thanks for taking the time to learn more about your utility. If you know of someone who did not receive a copy and would like to, please have them call our office at 503-965-6636. We'll be happy to mail them one. Or, they can stop by our office in person. We will also have copies available at the Post Office, Library and Senior Center. □□□□□□□□□□

- 1. Do you know how many people comprise the PCJWSA Board of Directors?
  - 2. Do you know how many people sit on the PCJWSA Budget Committee?
  - 3. Do you know if PCJWSA adds fluoride to the drinking water?
  - 4. Do you know what the new reservoir project is officially named?
  - 5. Do you know what D.C.V.A. means (hint: think backflow prevention)?
  - 6. Do you know what R.P.B.A. means (hint: think backflow prevention)?
  - 7. Do you know what the first step is to meet compliance with the cross connection control program?
  - 8. Do you know how many gallons of drinking water PCJWSA produces each year?
  - 9. Do you know how many gallons of drinking water each person in Pacific City uses per day?
  - 10. Do you know how much a gallon of water weighs?
- Answers below. No peeking!**

1. 5; 2. 10; 3. No, we do not; 4. Broolton Mt. Reservoir Project; 5. Double Check Valve Assembly; 6. Reduced Pressure Backflow Assembly; 7. The preliminary inspection; 8. 72,000,000; 9. 77; 10. 8.34 lbs.

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the environment"*

*Another In-House Publication By:  
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