

Water District News

Irvin Water District No. 6

June, 2024



Water Restrictions

Our water moratorium continues. We are using the amount of water rights allowed by Department of Ecology. We are working with them to attain additional rights. In addition, we are replacing old water lines and repairing leaks. We are also working with our customers to conserve water. We thank you for your continued efforts. For additional information about the moratorium, rates, and more, please see our website at IrvinWater.com.

As always, please reach out with questions and comments.

Regards,
Bob Cunningham
District Manager

Regarding Your Water Meter

We occasionally have trouble reading meters, because they are covered by grass or bushes, or vehicles are parked on top of them. Some meters are inside fenced yards where there are dogs. If we cannot easily access your meter, we will leave an orange card that asks you to read the meter and send the reading to our office. Please keep your water meter accessible at all times, so we can read it or shut the water off quickly in case of emergency. Thank you!

Sprinkler System Safety

In accordance with Washington State law, Irvin Water District has a backflow program to prevent hazardous chemicals from getting into your water supply. All sprinkler systems must have an approved and properly installed backflow device such as AVB, PVB, or DCVA. All devices are required to be inspected and/or tested every year. We have a list of testers who have provided the District with their credentials. If you have questions or need assistance, please call our office at 924-9320. If you have already had your device tested, we thank you!

Call before you dig.
It's the law. (RCW 19.122)
Dial 811 two business days before digging.

www.callbeforeyoudig.org



Office News

Our office is open from 7:30-3:30 Monday through Thursday, and 7:30-3:00 on Friday. You may pay your bill with cash, check, or money order. There is a payment slot in the door, with envelopes and pens available for your use to the right of the door. If you put cash in the slot, we will mail you a receipt. Some customers are still struggling to pay bills. Let us know if you need to set up a payment plan. If you follow that plan, we will work with you and will not follow our normal shut-off procedures. Late charges will be assessed, however. SNAP has assistance for low-income households who are behind in paying water bills. Their phone number is (509) 456-7627, and their website is <https://www.snapwa.org/energy-assistance>.



Board of Commissioners

Susan Darnell, President
Sean Charbonneau
Elizabeth Fletcher
Open public meetings are held at the office on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 4:00 P.M.

Office location & hours:

- 11907 E. Trent Avenue (Trent & Pit)
- Office hours 7:30-3:30 PM Mon.-Thurs. and 7:30-3:00 on Fri.
- The Manager and Operator work from 6 AM-4:30 PM, Monday through Thursday.
- 24-hour drop slot in door
- Phone: (509) 924-9320



We welcome visitors in the office. We have free educational materials that include coloring/activity books and stickers for children, conservation brochures, and Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer atlases.



AquaDuck sez:

Protect the Aquifer!

(It's your drinking water)

www.spokaneaquifer.org

This report is provided to all of our customers. It describes your drinking water quality for the period of January-December, 2023. Your water district is committed to supplying safe water that meets or surpasses state and federal standards and achieves the highest standards of customer service. Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 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 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 at 1-800-426-4791**.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: Microbial contaminants, such as viruses, parasites, and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from various sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses. Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production. They can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems. Radioactive contaminants, which can occur naturally or result from oil and gas production and mining activities.

Your drinking water comes from the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. This pristine and abundant aquifer lies in two states, holds ten trillion gallons of water, and is the sole source of drinking water for almost half a million people in the region. This groundwater source is recharged by the local precipitation and the snow pack in northern Idaho and western Montana and is naturally filtered by surface vegetation and the layers of gravel above the water line. The aquifer travels through northern Idaho and into Washington where it discharges into the Spokane River and the Little Spokane River. The SVRP aquifer is unique because of its vast size, swift flow of water, porous soils and due to the fact that the land over the aquifer is extensively developed. These factors make our aquifer uniquely susceptible to contamination. We must all treat the aquifer with care to keep our drinking water clean for everyone to enjoy. In the past one hundred years aquifer levels have remained constant, however scientific models have shown us that even though the aquifer is plentiful it is not unlimited. Careful planning will be required in the coming years to ensure that this aquifer remains clean and available for our community.

In Washington State, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used in household plumbing. The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more dissolved metals, such as lead, it may contain. Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children. To help reduce potential exposure to lead: for any drinking water tap that has not been used for 6 hours or more, flush water through the tap until the water is noticeably colder before using for drinking or cooking. You can use the flushed water for watering plants, washing dishes, or general cleaning. Only use water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water is available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Health and 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 Washington Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Irvin Water District #6

This report shows our water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Irvin Water District #6** (Water System ID # **36050R**) at **(509) 924-9320**. Our District Manager is Bob Cunningham. Our normal office hours are **M-F 7:30-3:30**. Board meetings are scheduled monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 4:00 P.M.

Irvin Water District routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, **2023**. All drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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 disorder.

In this table 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.

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 - (mandatory language) The "Goal" (**MCLG**) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. **MCLG** allow for a margin of safety. **pCi/L** - Pico Curies per Liter - a unit of radioactivity. **Ppb or Ug/L**- parts per billion or micrograms per liter. About 1 drop in one of the largest tanker trucks used to haul gasoline would represent 1 ppb.

TEST RESULTS								
Contaminant			Violation	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants								
1. Total Coliform Bacteria *			No	Absent	Absent	0	(systems that collect fewer than 40 samples per month) 1 positive monthly sample	Naturally present in the environment
*60 Samples were taken in 2023 All were satisfactory								
Inorganic Contaminants								
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) Pump SO1 Pump SO3 Pump SO4 Pump SO5			No	1.61 1.85 1.15 0.30	Ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 2015 SO1 Radium 228 2021 SO3 Radium 228 2015 SO4 Radium 228 2018 SO5			No	.425 .369 .34 .302	pCi/l	n/a	15/5.0	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha 2021 Pump 1 Gross Alpha 2021 Pump 3 Gross Alpha 2021 Pump 4 Gross Alpha 2018 Pump 5			No	< 3.0 < 3.0 < 3.0 < 3.0	pCi/l	n/a	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine Residual (ppm)			No	.01-.31	Ppm	4.0	4.0	Measure of disinfectant added to water
Copper, tested summer 2021			No	.0189-.137	Ppm	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Lead, tested summer 2021			No	ND-2	Ppb	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes			No	1.29	Ppb	0	80	By-Products of Chlorination