

2013

# City of Sunnyside Annual Consumer Confidence Report

The City of Sunnyside is pleased to present this annual report as required by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the State of Washington. We have remained committed to providing clean, safe drinking water to our customers by meeting or exceeding all quality standards. We encourage you to stay informed on the quality of your drinking water by reading this report.



## Our Drinking Water

The City of Sunnyside currently has five wells in use as well as three standby wells which are located throughout the city. These wells are relatively deep and the water we receive from them meets all state and federal standards. Chlorine is used for disinfection. Residual chlorine levels in the distribution system are checked on a daily basis to ensure that the amount of chlorine utilized is effective while remaining at the safe levels determined by the EPA. We also test for several different contaminants each year. In the event that any test exceeded the maximum contaminant levels set by the EPA, the appropriate public notification would be issued immediately.

## Conservation Tips for Summer & Beyond

- We're more likely to notice leaky faucets indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, pipes, and hoses for leaks.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway or sidewalk.
- Wash your car and/or bathe your pets on the grass in an area in need of water. Use a hose nozzle and turn off the water while you wash.
- Weed your lawn and garden regularly. Weeds compete with other plants for nutrients, light, and water.
- While fertilizers promote plant growth, they also increase water consumption. Apply the minimum amount of fertilizer needed.
- For hanging baskets, planters and pots, place ice cubes under the moss or dirt to give your plants a drink of water and help eliminate water overflow.
- Composting instead of using the garbage disposal will save gallons of water every time. Using compost when you plant also adds water-holding organic matter to the soil.
- Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street. Keep sprinkler heads in good shape.



## Cross Connection Control

*Cross connections* are links between drinking water piping and any plumbing or equipment through which it may be possible for used water or other substances to enter (or *backflow*) into the public water supply. Our Cross Connection Control Program helps control backflow and cross connections by identifying and eliminating unsafe situations or practices; however, a large part of the success of the program depends on the cooperation of our City's property owners.

Each individual property owner is responsible for maintaining their plumbing system according to the plumbing code and state regulations. This includes preventing or eliminating cross connections. If you have a lawn irrigation system, fertilizer hose attachment or any other type of water-using equipment, you have a cross connection and should be taking measures to prevent backflow. Many of these household cross connections require the installation of mechanical units called *backflow prevention assemblies*. These units, when properly installed, tested and maintained, prevent used water or substances from flowing backward.

If you have questions about cross connections, or plan on installing a backflow prevention assembly on your property, you are encouraged to contact Sunnyside Public Works at (509) 837-5206.



## En Español

*Este informe contiene información importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Debe ser traducido por alguien que habla bien Inglés. Si tiene alguna pregunta acerca de este informe puede comunicarse con el Departamento de Obras Públicas en Sunnyside (509) 837-5206 durante las horas normales de oficina.*

## Water Use Efficiency Program Update

The Water Use Efficiency (WUE) program was designed and implemented by the Washington Department of Health to "help use water efficiently to help meet future needs, operate successfully within financial, managerial and technical constraints, and to continue to deliver safe and reliable water."

In 2012, the City was able to account for nearly 98% of the water we produced. This means only 2% was lost to leaks, theft or other issues within the system (our WUE goal is 10% or less). *Although the City pumped and sold about the same amount of water in 2013 as in 2012, precise data for 2013 is not available. The City's source water meters were replaced and the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system was updated in 2013; both of these events caused an unforeseeable loss of data.*

We are very pleased to be meeting our WUE goals and will continue to be diligent in identifying and addressing any areas of water waste. The WUE program will not have an impact without the support and help of our customers. Please help us - and the entire community - by using water wisely. You can start by incorporating the conservation tips offered in this report!

## Important Health Information

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least trace amounts of some "contaminants". The presence of these do not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons 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.

Environmental Protection Agency/ Centers for Disease Control 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 (800) 426-4791.

# Water Quality Data Table for 2013



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates the frequency of sampling for various contaminants. The data presented in this table is from testing conducted in 2013. The table may also include any other results within the last five years for analyses that were not required in the year 2013.

CONTAMINANTS (UNITS)	MCL	RANGE LOW - HIGH (OR RESULT)	SAMPLE YEAR	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
<b>DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS</b>					
HAA5 [Haloacetic Acids] (ppb)	60	ND	2013	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	80	.5 - 5.4	2013	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>					
Arsenic (ppb)	10	2.0 - 7.0	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Iron (ppm)	0.3	ND - 0.3	2013	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	.34 - .5	2013	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Manganese (ppm)	0.05	ND - 0.05	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10.0	ND - 2.07	2013	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS - STATE REGULATED</b>					
Sodium (ppm)	n/a	13 - 15.6	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	250	ND - 35	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>COPPER</b>	<b>GOAL</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>90<sup>TH</sup> PERCENTILE</b>	<i>Of the 30 samples tested for Copper, none exceeded the AL</i>	
Copper (ppm) Sampled at consumer's tap	1.3	1.3	.087	2013	No Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

**The City of Sunnyside had no monitoring or reporting violations in 2013.**



## The Effects of Lead in Drinking Water

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. The City of Sunnyside 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 (800) 426-4791 or at their website [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS REPORT, CONTACT:

**Shane Fisher, Sunnyside Public Works Superintendant** (509) 837-5206  
**Washington Department of Health:** (509) 456-3115  
**EPA Website:** [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)  
**EPA Hotline:** (800) 426-4791

### What You Should Know About Arsenic

Very low levels of arsenic, which have not exceeded EPA standards, have been detected in the City of Sunnyside's drinking water supply. There is a slight chance that some people who drink water containing low levels of arsenic over many years could develop circulatory disease, cancer or other health problems. Most types of cancer and circulatory disease are due to factors other than exposure to arsenic. EPA standards balance the current understanding of arsenic's health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. Monitoring and adjusting the treatment processes to reduce arsenic in the drinking water is one of the City of Sunnyside's top priorities.

## Public Participation Opportunity

Residents with questions or input on water issues may attend City Council meetings on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Law & Justice Center. The agenda is posted at the City website at [www.ci.sunnyside.wa.us](http://www.ci.sunnyside.wa.us).

### TERMS & ABBREVIATIONS

**AL:** Action Level. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**Contaminant:** A word used to describe anything detected in the drinking water supply. This term is commonly used in the drinking water industry and should not necessarily invite concern, as all drinking water contains trace amounts of minerals and other substances.

**MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

**n/a:** not applicable.

**ND:** Not Detected: Lab analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present or not detectable with the best available technology.

**ppb:** Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter.

**ppm:** Parts per million, or milligrams per liter.

**Range:** The lowest (minimum) amount of contaminant detected and the highest (maximum) amount detected during a sample period.

**90th percentile:** Out of the 30 homes sampled, 27 were at or below this level.