

# Water Words

A joint newsletter from the Tualatin Valley Water District and Clean Water Services

May - June 2012

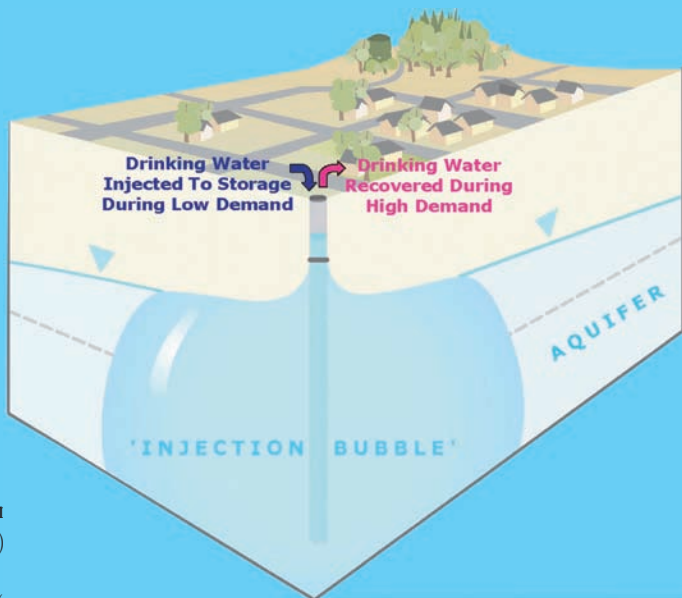
## Aquifer storage and recovery a useful tool in helping manage summer water supplies

TVWD's Grabhorn Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) well is a sustainable way to help manage seasonal water resources. During the winter, when supply is plentiful, TVWD stores treated drinking water underground in the aquifer surrounding our Grabhorn ASR well. During the summer, the stored water is pumped from the well to augment other sources to help meet peak summer water demands. Last summer, during peak production, the District pumped about 3 million gallons per day of water (about 7% of TVWD's summer daily water use) the Grabhorn ASR well.

Managing our resources is important to help us manage "summer peaking," when people increase their water use. Summer peaking can be a concern because we are using stored water from reservoirs faster than rain replaces it.

Western Oregon's climate is well-suited for ASR because water is plentiful during the rainy winter months, however, water demands are highest during the dry summer months. ASR wells can be charged (filled with water) during the winter when the rivers are high and treatment facilities have excess capacity. ASR was pioneered in Oregon and is being used by several communities around the state.

The Grabhorn ASR well is capable of storing in excess of 300 million gallons of treated water. In comparison, the combined total capacity of TVWD's existing 24 storage reservoirs is about 63 million gallons. This new seasonal supply will continue to operate in the future to help meet peak summer water demands and reduce the District's cost for purchased water. It is important to note that ASR alone cannot meet TVWD's future storage needs. While it is a helpful tool for providing stored water during high summer demands, ASR requires specific geological formations for successful water storage and locations with sufficient capacity and proper functionality are difficult to secure. For more information about aquifer storage and recovery, visit [asrforum.com](http://asrforum.com).



## Water quality is our top priority

We take our mission, "to provide our community with quality water and customer service," seriously. To the Board and employees of TVWD, that means the quality of your water is our number one priority. TVWD and our key water suppliers - the Portland Water Bureau and the Joint Water Commission (JWC) - regularly test your water supply for approximately 200 contaminants. Testing includes all contaminants regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), plus many unregulated contaminants. Sampling is conducted at various locations in the water system, including the Joint Water Commission water treatment plant and the distribution system.

Want more information about what we test for and specific test results? Look for TVWD's Water Quality Report in the mail soon or visit [tvwd.org](http://tvwd.org) for more information.

## Not sure how much to water? Let us take the guesswork out for you!

On average, your lawn needs 1 inch of water per week including rain. However, this need can change depending on weather conditions. The Regional Water Providers Consortium can send you an Email with the Weekly Watering Number that will tell you how much to adjust your landscape watering depending on the weather. The Weekly Watering Number is updated every Thursday from April to September. Interested? Visit [tvwd.org](http://tvwd.org) to sign up today!



# Investing in a cleaner future

Clean water is a vital part of our lives here in Washington County, ensuring healthy people and a healthy environment. To continue our dedicated efforts to ensure clean water, sanitary sewer rates are proposed to increase \$1.33 (3.69%) a month for the average household. The Surface Water Management fee is proposed to increase \$.50 (9.52%) per month for the average household. These increases are necessary to meet stringent federal water quality requirements; pay for rising power and chemical costs; fund flood management and water quality projects; and to upgrade and maintain the community's wastewater collection and treatment facilities. Please read the insert included in this mailing for more information or visit [cleanwaterservices.org/budget](http://cleanwaterservices.org/budget).



## Jump start your spring cleaning



Spring is the time for cleaning out your closets, cabinets and garage. Unsure about the safest way to dispose of your household waste? Here are a few ideas:

**Dispose of unwanted and expired medications safely and free of charge at several sites.**

- Beaverton City Hall, 4755 SW Griffith Drive: Mon. - Thurs. 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. and Fri. 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Sherwood Police Department, 20495 SW Borchers Drive: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Tigard Police Department, 13125 SW Hall Blvd.: Everyday 8 a.m. - 11 p.m.
- Washington Co. Sheriff's Office, 215 SW Adams, Hillsboro: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



**Recycle your old paint for free at these local stores. Learn more at [paintcare.org](http://paintcare.org).**

- Ace Hardware, 3470 SW 185th, Aloha
- Miller Paint, 1040 NW Murray Road, Beaverton
- Washington County ReStore, 13475 SW Millikan Way, Beaverton
- Rodda Paint, 8614 Hall Blvd., Beaverton

For \$5 per load, Metro will take items like paint, pool chemicals, pesticides, batteries, motor oil and more. Call Metro Recycling Information at (503) 234-3000 or visit [oregonmetro.gov](http://oregonmetro.gov) for permanent drop-off locations and a list of community events.

## Look for ways to Join the Cycle

You might notice some Clean Water Services ads prompting you to 'Join the Cycle' on bus backs, commercials and in the newspaper this spring. Our ad campaign is focusing on how we are all connected through water in one big cycle. The water from you faucet will end up in the river and be used again. So it's everyone's responsibility to help keep our water clean. The ads focus on simple behaviors we can all do at home:

- **Do the Doody** pick up after your pet
- **Can the Wipes** instead of flushing down the toilet
- **Freeze the Grease** instead of pouring down the kitchen sink

Explore [jointhecycle.org](http://jointhecycle.org) to learn more about how you can help and Join the Cycle today!



### How to reach us

Your  
Drinking Water  
Provider

Tualatin Valley Water District

1850 SW 170th Avenue  
Beaverton, Oregon 97006  
(503) 642-1511  
(503) 649-2733 (fax)  
[twvd.org](http://twvd.org)

Your Sanitary Sewer and  
Surface Water Utility

CleanWater Services

2550 SW Hillsboro Highway  
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123  
(503) 681-3600  
(503) 681-3603 (fax)  
TDD (503) 681-3601  
[cleanwaterservices.org](http://cleanwaterservices.org)