1037 NW Grebe Street
Seal Rock, Oregon 97376
Phone: 541.563.3529 – Fax: 541.563.4246
www.srwd.org

Seal Rock Water District

General Manager's Report:
Board Meeting – June 13, 2024

This report serves as an executive summary for the Board meeting agenda. It provides recommendations for actions to be taken if necessary. Detailed information, staff reports, and supporting materials can be found in the full agenda packet.

PHASE-IV BEAVER CREEK SOURCE WATER PROJECT:

Water treatment plant operators continue implementing remote operation of the water treatment plant. While this phase in the process is relatively new for the district, it is standard throughout the industry, and we continue recognizing promising results.

Operators are able to allow the WTP to operate after hours with successful starts and stops, to include automated routine maintenance cleans during production. The result to the district is less overall cost to produce water and an increased overall level of stored water in the drinking water system. Operators continue to monitor conditions as they work collaboratively with engineers and WesTech technicians to build greater optimization as continued monitoring is performed.

With the seasonal transition to warmer temperatures and less precipitation, naturally, operators are recording a rise in raw water temperature, along with a reduction in stream flow. These conditions can result in the development of organics in raw water. Historically these conditions trigger more effort in the maintenance of the filtration skids. However, with recent operational improvements at the WTP operators will be closely monitoring impacts to finish water.

Adam Denlinger, General Manager
adenlinger@srwd.org
www.srwd.org

Increased levels of organics in the raw water require more frequent backwashing of the filter skids, along with an adjustment disinfectant. Customers may experience slightly higher than usual levels of chlorine in their drinking water as a result of fluctuating temperatures. It's important to note that the district is required to meet strict drinking water standards regulated by the EPA and Oregon Health Authority. The EPA allows up to 4 milligrams per liter of chlorine in drinking water. The chlorine levels in SRWD's system are well below this level.

Water is disinfected to protect public health. Chlorine has been added to drinking water in small amounts since the early 1900s to destroy disease-causing pathogens. Prior to the widespread use of disinfectants, many people became ill or died because of contaminated water. Disinfection kills or inactivates bacteria, viruses, and other potentially harmful organisms in drinking water.

Upon initial dosing, chlorine reacts with any organic matter in water. The amount of chlorine used in these reactions is known as the "chlorine demand" of the water. Raw water taken from lakes and streams for drinking water treatment is likely to have a high chlorine demand based on the presence of natural organic material, e.g., decaying plant and animal matter.

The level of chlorine added to the drinking water varies slightly. However, we recognize that some people are more sensitive to tastes and odors than others and water disinfected with chlorine can be more noticeable as water temperature rises in the system. Occasional fluctuations in taste or smell do not necessarily indicate an increase or decrease in the disinfectant. It is more likely due to a change in water temperature (especially with warmer weather) or older water age, indicating that the chlorine is dissipating in time.

SRWD's operators carefully monitor the amount of disinfectant added to water as it leaves the treatment plant. Plant operators strictly follow the EPA's maximum allowable levels in order to protect public health. Disinfectant residual levels (a measure of how much chlorine is in the water) are monitored 24/7 at all SRWD entry points and at several locations throughout SRWD's distribution system. Residual readings are also collected from various sample stations around the district several times each month to confirm water is safe to drink.

By monitoring the chlorine residual throughout the drinking water distribution system, water treatment operators can quickly identify points at which the residual declines or disappears. A sudden decline in the chlorine residual could indicate a leak in the drinking water distribution system.

Other notable activities for the month include:

- Attended the Mid Coast Water Conservation Consortium Meeting.
- Hosted monthly staff/safety meeting.
- Attended Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership (MC-WPP) field tour and WPP meeting on May 29th.
- Attended meetings with representatives from Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) committee regarding OWRD Fee-Based programs.
- Attended the monthly Oregon Water Utility Council (OWUC) meeting, on May 23rd.
- Staff worked with Jacobs Engineering in preparation for arbitration.
- Attended additional meetings with OWRD staff regarding water rights process improvements.
- Staff completed another round of 40 lead and copper samples.
- Staff met with consultants preparing this year's Beaver Creek streamflow and temperature monitoring.

- SRWD Staff completed the 2023 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) and will be making it available to the community in the month of June.
- District staff worked with consultants to complete the final version of the Water Management and Conservation Plan (WMCP) which was submitted to the state on May 19th.

Adam Denlinger, General Manager
adenlinger@srwd.org
www.srwd.org