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Seal Rock Water District

General Manager's Report:
 Board Meeting – July 11, 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:

Due to seasonal variances of temperature in the raw water system used for treating our drinking water, customers may notice slightly higher than usual levels of chlorine this time of year. Like all public water systems, we are required to meet strict drinking water standards regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA). The EPA allows up to 4 milligrams per liter of chlorine in drinking water. The chlorine levels in SRWD's system are maintained well below this level. Relative to your proximity within the district chlorine residual on average is between .98 and 1.54 mg/L.

The level of chlorine added to the drinking water varies only 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 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 over time.

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.



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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.

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, the treatment is likely to have a high chlorine demand based on the presence of natural organic material, e.g., decaying plant and animal matter.



SRWD Beaver Creek Intake:

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 Meeting.
- Attended meetings with representatives from Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) committee regarding OWRD Fee-Based programs.
- Attended SDAO Board Meeting.
- Conducted applicant interviews for WD-1 and 2 vacancies.
- Attended the monthly Oregon Water Utility Council (OWUC) meeting.
- Staff worked with Jacobs Engineering in preparation for arbitration.
- Attended additional meetings with OWRD and OWUC regarding water rights process improvements.
- Staff completed additional lead and copper samples.
- Staff met with consultants preparing this year's Beaver Creek streamflow and temperature monitoring.
- SRWD Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) was made available to the community and certified by the Oregon Health Authority.