



# 2020

## Lakewood Water District Annual Water Quality & Business Report

OUR WATER OUR COMMUNITY OUR FUTURE





## Dear Lakewood Water District Customers

At this time, as we write our Annual Report, we are coming out of the pandemic and restrictions and protocols are being reduced. As of June 30, we might be out from any and all restrictions based on our Governor's guidelines. This would be a welcome event. This last year has been tough on many, difficult to navigate, and we have seen many challenges and changes come and go. Throughout the pandemic we have continued to maintain our high level of service to you, our customers, with no decrease or interruption of service throughout. We are very grateful to be able to make this statement.

This last year, as tough as it has been, has also taught us a lot. We have embraced our investments in technology and our IT Department and staff. They have helped us communicate both externally with you, our customer, maintaining customers' services and also internally with our own staff, supporting our operations as we worked remotely and helping us track our work logistically in the field. We have adopted new resolutions to help our customers pay their bills, provide new working hours for staff to be available longer, and to have 24/7 emergency call support. We have been able to mitigate/adapt to many of the pressures of this last year, including avoiding disruption of service and quickly and adeptly overcoming security breaches. All of this to inform you that we have become a stronger organization and utility serving you during the pandemic.

Currently we are continuing to update our Capital Improvement Program, investing in filtrations systems, continuing our Replacement and Rehabilitation (R&R) Program (delivery system), and increasing in our Wholesale Water Sales to keep our rates low and stable. We are studying a long-term strategy for our sources (wells) and our storage (tanks) infrastructure longevity and lifecycle plan.

There is a lot of potential state and federal funding soon to be available through many of the stimulus plans being negotiated and proposed. We are looking for all sources of public-provided grants and other resources to help us fund many of the activities and upcoming projects above while continuing to keep our rates low and avoiding rate increases in the future,

We are well prepared to serve our community and it has been and continues to be a pleasure to do so.

Sincerely,

Your Lakewood Water  
District Commissioners



(Left to right) John Korsmo, President; Greg Rediske, Vice President, and Gary Barton, Secretary





## Your Lakewood Water District Team serving you.

(In order from left to right, top to bottom). Randy, Bob, Doreen, Brent, Chris, Christian, Clark, Christie, Don, Eric, Ian, Megan, Kegan, Kyle, Luke, Philip, Marika, Tyler, Zac, Rod, Ryan, Auburn, Bobby, Debbie, Carrie, Michelle, Sandy, Jordan, Sam, Teri, Shaun, Kevin, Amber, Marshall, Jake, David, Briana, Lucas

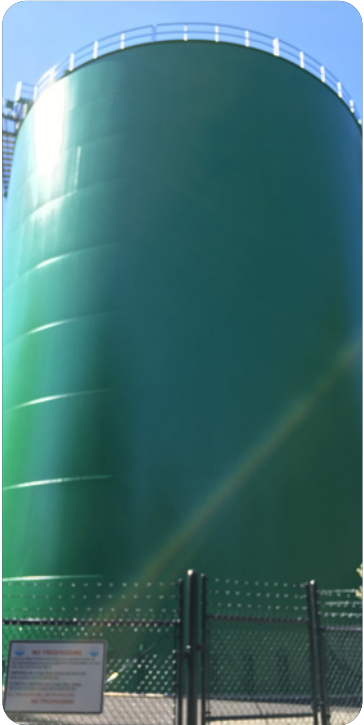


(Above) Twin stainless steel stripping towers at Ponders Wellsite

# Lakewood Water District Projects

## PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2021

- 💧 G-3 Well Site Treatment
- 💧 Scott Well Site Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Wells G-1, and G-2
- 💧 Gravelly Lake Drive R&R, Nyanza to Washington Blvd to Interlaken
- 💧 Interior and Exterior Painting Washington Blvd Tank
- 💧 39th Avenue R&R Phases 2 and 3 from 96th to 108th
- 💧 FEMA Grant Seismic Upgrades to 5 Tanks including backup generators
- 💧 108th Street Crossing at Halcyon and Rowland
- 💧 FEMA Grant Seismic Upgrades to the Steilacoom Blvd Tank Site
- 💧 New Parking/Dry Storage Building @ LWD Office



(Above) Nyanza 2-million gallon tank. (Top Right) Nyanza demo (Bottom Right) WSDOT Reroute of water main under I-5

## PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2020

- 💧 WSDOT Water Main Replacement in Tillicum on Washington Avenue, Berkeley, and Murray Road.
- 💧 39th Avenue R&R Phase 1, Steilacoom Blvd to 96th Street including 94th
- 💧 Wholesale Booster Station upgrade and Wholesale Booster Station #2
- 💧 Arrowhead R&R Phase 3
- 💧 32nd Avenue South R&R, 96th to South Tacoma Way
- 💧 Sylvan Park R&R Phase 4
- 💧 Veteran's Drive R&R, East and West Ends
- 💧 Nyanza 2-million-gallon Tank, and Demolition of old Tank



(Above) Turbine pumps, motors, valve at WTM Booster Station (Bottom) PumpTech removes well pump & motor





(Top) Eric & Clark repair hydrant (Middle) Chris takes GIS shot (Bottom) Rod taps a water main

## PROJECTS BEING DESIGNED IN 2021 FOR COMPLETION IN 2022:

- 💧 Naomi-lawn R&R, New-Grove and Highland
- 💧 Front Street R&R to 96th upgrade to 16"
- 💧 Lake Steilacoom Drive R&R Phase 2
- 💧 112th Street East R&R on Pacific HWY to South Tacoma Way
- 💧 Drill new Well R-2 at 112th Street Site

## Lakewood Water District Balance Sheet Year Ended December 31, 2020

Unaudited

| Assets                                  | (\$) Dollar amounts |
|---|---------------------|
| Cash and Investments                    | 12,809,994          |
| Other Current Assets                    | 2,881,718           |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>             | <b>15,691,712</b>   |
| Total Net Utility Plant                 | 114,841,238         |
| Deferred Outflows                       | 455,297             |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                     | <b>130,988,247</b>  |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                      |                     |
| Current Liabilities                     | 4,094,934           |
| Bonds Payable and Other Noncurrent Liab | 52,650,236          |
| Retained Earnings                       | 73,867,887          |
| Deferred Inflows                        | 375,191             |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>   | <b>130,988,247</b>  |

## Another Clean Audit... now 25 Years and Counting

The State Auditor's Office completed its annual audit of the District's accounts and records and again awarded the District a clean report. The SAO's official Accountability Audit and Financial Statement Audit Reports again noted no deficiencies and, again, complimented the District on its strong financial policies, precise accounting internal controls, and competent and cooperative staff.

For more information on our audit history, please consult our website at [www.lakewoodwater.org](http://www.lakewoodwater.org).



(Above) Philip, Marika, Michelle, and Carrie taking the best care of the District's financial affairs.



## The Source of Your Water

The District's sole source of water is from underground aquifers—water-bearing strata of permeable rock, sand, or gravel. No surface water, desalinated water, or recycled water is used. The District has a total of 30 active wells which together provide a maximum production capacity of 34 million gallons per day (mgd), with a total water right capacity to pump up to over 60 mgd.

The District's 32 active wells are in four aquifers—A, C, E, and G—with A being the shallowest and G being the deepest. Aquifers are generally of glacial origin and tend to be coarse-grained and highly permeable. There are three Aquitards—B, D, and F—layered between the four aquifers. Aquitards are strata of finer-grained and less-permeable layers and usually of interglacial origin. The District's aquitards are made up of sediments deposited by the ancestral Nisqually and Puyallup rivers. Historical sedimentation is not unlike the alluvium presently being deposited by these rivers today.

Recharge (replenishing) of the aquifers comes from local rainfall in the Clover/Chambers drainage basin. The District's deepest aquifers—E and G—will most likely receive some additional, deep underflow recharge from the south Puyallup /Graham area westward to the Puget Sound, including snowpack from Mt. Rainier.



(Above) Ryan records stream data from Lucas below

## Water Use Efficiency Rule (WUE):

The District is compliant with all facets of the Water Use Efficiency Rule, we have set a new goal for the next 6 years. This emphasizes responsible use and economic incentives to reduce uses that don't provide benefits to the user or the community. The District's lost water for last year was 7.25 percent with a three-year average of 8.6 percent, all well below the 10 percent reporting level. This speaks to the value of the R&R Program, the Leak Detection Program, and the long-term success of the new meters and the AMI System. LWD is pleased to have shown such a significant reduction in this unaccounted for water (as high as 15 percent a number of years ago), and to have successfully maintained this reduction over this significant period of time.

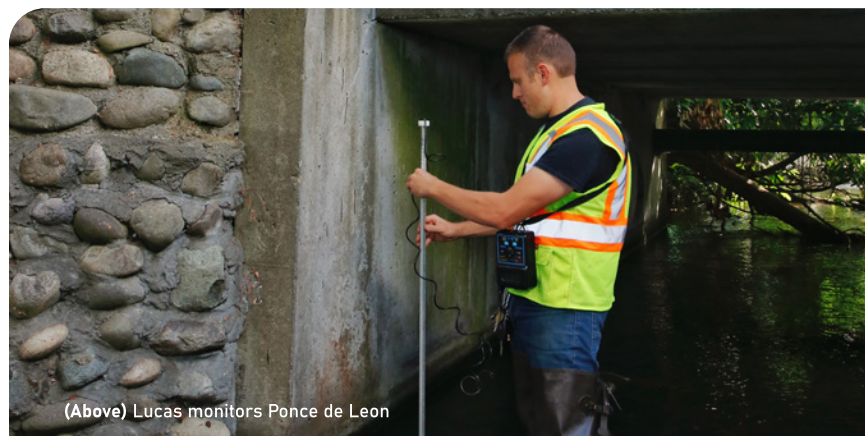
## For Your Health

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk.

Some may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. The following can be particularly at risk of infection: the immuno-compromised, such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy; those having had organ transplants, HIV/AIDS, or other immune system disorders; and some elderly and infants. These should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers.

More information about contaminants, potential health effects, and EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk for infections by cryptosporidium and microbial contaminants is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.



(Above) Lucas monitors Ponce de Leon

## Monitoring Our Lakes and Streams

We consistently keep an eye on the levels of select lakes and streams in our service area.

The lake levels are indicators of the water table level in the Steilacoom Gravel, deposited by the receding Vashon Glacier. Water in the gravel also leaks through the Vashon till or springs out above the till, adding to the flows of the area's major springs such as Ponce de Leon, Chambers, Garrison, and Sequelichew. The District collects monthly data from gauges on Ponce de Leon and on five lakes (American, Gravelly, Hidden, Louise, and Waughop). This information, together with the data collected from the Pierce County Stream Team, is vital to the District's Aquifer Management Program as well as the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department's long-term groundwater monitoring program.

# 2020 Water Quality Sampling/Monitoring Report

Your water meets all federal, state, and local quality standards, ensuring that you enjoy safe, clean, potable water. Not listed are 63 volatile organic chemicals for which we tested, all resulting in either Not Detected (ND) or well below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). The number and frequency of non-bacteriological samples are determined by the Water Quality Monitoring Schedule (WQMS) issued by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH).

| Sample Type           | Samples Taken Per Year      | Last Sample Year | Next Sample Year | EPA/DOH MCL (max level allowed) | LWD Highest Level Detected | LWD Lowest Level Detected | Number of Samples Over MCL | AL (action level) | Typical Sources                  |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Arsenic <sup>1</sup>  | DOH WQMS List               | 2019             | TBD              | 10 ppb                          | 5 ppb                      | <1 ppm                    | 0                          |                   | Erosion of natural deposits      |
| Asbestos              | 1 every 9 yrs               | 2020             | 2028             | 7 mfl                           | <0.16                      | --                        | 0                          | 7 mfl             | Friable fiber                    |
| Copper                | 30 every 3 yrs <sup>3</sup> | 2020             | 2023             | N/A                             | 0.364 ppm                  | .032 ppm                  | 0                          | 1.3 ppm           | Household plumbing               |
| Fecal Coliform        | 840 per yr                  | 2020             | 2021             | 0                               | ND                         | ND                        | 0                          | 0                 | Human and animal fecal waste     |
| Total Coliform        | 840 per yr                  | 2020             | 2021             | <5% positive                    | ND                         | ND                        | 0                          | 0                 | Found throughout the environment |
| Haloacetic Acids      | 2 per yr                    | 2020             | 2021             | 60 ppb                          | ND                         | ND                        | 0                          | 0                 | Disinfection by-product          |
| Lead <sup>2</sup>     | 31 every 3 yrs <sup>4</sup> | 2020             | 2023             | N/A                             | 42.5 ppb <sup>5</sup>      | <1 ppb                    | 0                          | 15 ppb            | Household plumbing               |
| Nitrates              | 22 per yr <sup>6</sup>      | 2020             | 2021             | 10 ppm                          | 1.99 ppm                   | <0.2 ppm                  | 0                          | 0                 | Erosion of natural deposits      |
| Total Trihalomethanes | 2 per yr                    | 2020             | 2021             | 80 ppb                          | 2.51 ppb                   | ND                        | 0                          | 0                 | Disinfection by-product          |

## Our Testing Resulted In No Violations

The chart above only reflects a portion of the testing LWD performs. Complete Source Water Assessment (testing result information) is available at the District office.

### Table Term Definitions:

**AL:** Federal Action Level. Must take action to minimize levels if concentrations exceed these numbers.

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

**ND:** Not Detected

**ppb:** parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

**ppm:** parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

**WQMS:** Water Quality Monitoring Schedule

**MFL:** Million fibers/liter

One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.  
One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

<sup>1</sup> Your drinking water currently meets the EPA's revised drinking water standard for arsenic; however, it does contain low levels of arsenic. There is a small chance that some people who drink water containing low levels of arsenic for many years could develop circulatory disease, cancer, or other health problems. Most types of cancer and circulatory diseases are due to factors other than exposure to arsenic. The EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water.

<sup>2</sup> 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. Lakewood Water District 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 at 800.426.4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

<sup>3</sup> Only 30 required, but we ended up taking 31.

<sup>4</sup> Only 30 required, but we ended up taking 31.

<sup>5</sup> But we only took 19 samples this year because the J3, N1, and N3 Wells were down.

<sup>6</sup> Spoke to customer, this was due to customer sampling error. We retested on 2/9/2021 and the result was good—2.7 ppb.



(Above) Brent taking sample from LWD sample station

If you would like to learn more about our water, or have questions regarding water quality or what you can do to help keep our water supply clean and safe, please contact us at Lakewood Water District or any of the following:



PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit #1  
Seattle, WA

**Lakewood Water District**  
11900 Gravelly Lake Drive SW  
Lakewood, WA 98499  
[www.lakewoodwater.org](http://www.lakewoodwater.org), 253.588.4423

**Randall M. Black, General Manager**  
Email: [rblack@lakewoodwater.org](mailto:rblack@lakewoodwater.org)

Lakewood Water District  
11900 Gravelly Lake Drive SW  
Lakewood, WA 98499

**Washington State Department of Health (WDOH)**  
[www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw)

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**  
[www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

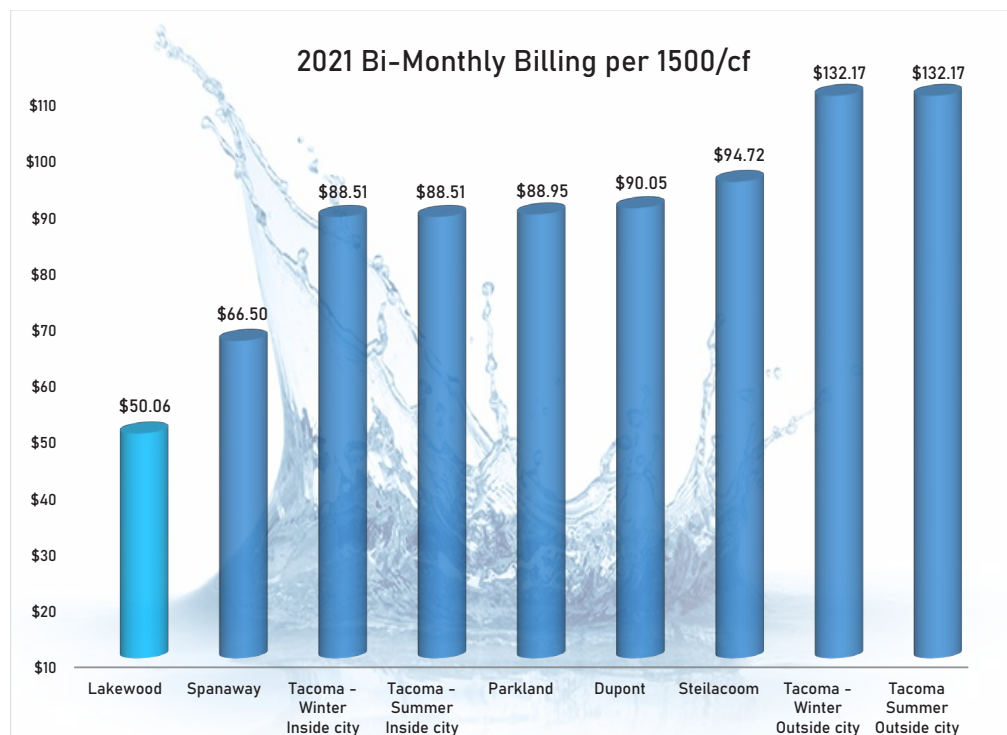
**Safe Drinking Water Hotline**  
800.426.4791, email: [hotline-sdwa@epa.gov](mailto:hotline-sdwa@epa.gov)

To request additional copies of this year's Annual Water Quality & Business Report, please contact the District office at 253.588.4423 or [csweb@lakewoodwater.org](mailto:csweb@lakewoodwater.org)

You can also access this report on our website at [www.lakewoodwater.org](http://www.lakewoodwater.org)

Photos courtesy of Lakewood Water District employee Tyler Marsh

## Comparisons of Lakewood Water District Rates with Surrounding Utilities



(Above) 104th and Bridgeport Tank

