

Westside Water Association E-Newsletter – July 2016 Edition

Anderson Well #2: On-Line Since July 1st

Westside Water's new well was activated on July 1st. It was the culminating event in a busy five-week period following the Association's May 23rd annual meeting. At the time of the meeting, we were waiting for the pump setter to install the pump and piping assembly down inside the well casing. That work concluded on May 26th. Our engineer arrived that afternoon to begin a 24-hour pump test designed to test the capability of the new well. 24 hours later with the results of the test in hand, our engineer began analyzing the data and started writing a *Project Report for Source Approval*. This report must be submitted to and approved by the Department of Health (DOH) prior to turning on the new well. Meanwhile, water samples were sent to a lab for testing, electrical work was completed to "wire in" the well, and other preparatory work completed on-site. Paperwork with the Department of Ecology and the county was completed. Our engineer submitted his report to DOH on June 21st. The Department of Health, knowing that we would face a potential public health issue with regard to arsenic when the hot weather returns, gave Westside's report a priority review. DOH responded to our engineer on June 27th with some questions, which were answered by our engineer on the 29th. Two days later, the Association received the green light to turn on the new well.

Water Quality

At the conclusion of the pump test on May 27th, water samples were submitted to a lab for testing. The results were overwhelmingly positive. The arsenic level in Anderson Well #2 measured at 2.3 parts per billion (ppb), well below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) standard of 10 ppb. Levels of iron and manganese were also well below allowable levels.

Here is how the two wells of the Anderson Well Field compare:

Contaminant	Anderson Well #1	Anderson Well #2	MCL limit standard
	<i>mg/l</i> (range of results obtained)	<i>mg/l</i>	<i>mg/l</i>
Arsenic*	0.001-0.002 (1-2 ppb)	0.0023 (2.3 ppb)	0.010 (10 ppb)
Iron**	0.0-0.10	0.0536	0.3
Manganese**	<0.001	<0.001	0.05

*Contaminant that can impact public health.

**Nuisance contaminant that can discolor water or cause a metallic taste. Not a public health concern.

Other contaminants tested were at exceedingly low levels or nonexistent.

From the standpoint of water quality, the two wells at the Anderson site offer wonderfully clean supplies of water for us to enjoy.

Water Quantity

With the addition of Anderson Well #2, water production from the Anderson Well Field that our engineer recommended (and the Department of Health approved of) went from 23 gallons per minute (Anderson Well #1 pumping alone) to a maximum production of 52.5 gpm (both Anderson wells pumping simultaneously) when calculated over a 24 hour time frame. Factoring in the well points down in Shinglemill Canyon (currently producing 22 gpm all day long), the system's new capacity for this summer is expected to be the functional equivalent of 74.5 gpm (continuous flow).

It is important to note that our water system's new capacity of 74.5 gpm does not include the Canyon Well. As you will recall, the Association has in recent years been obligated to use the Canyon Well for blending in order to provide members with sufficient water for summer peak-season usage. The high arsenic content of that well has posed a potential problem for the Association and for the Department of Health. With the addition of Anderson Well #2, the system's capacity should be sufficient to meet peak-season demand without needing to turn on the Canyon Well at all, barring some unusual or emergency situation (a mechanical problem with one of the other wells, pipeline rupture, brush or forest fire, etc.).

The recommended production in a 24 hour period from the Anderson Well Field has a range that can be charted:

	Anderson Well #1 used alone	Anderson Well #2 used alone	Anderson Wells #1 and #2 used together
Anderson Well #1	23 gpm	0	15.0 gpm*
Anderson Well #2	0	37.5 gpm	37.5 gpm
Total Well Field Recommended Production	23 gpm = 33,120 gallons per day	37.5 gpm = 54,000 gallons per day	52.5 gpm = 75,600 gallons per day

* Due to the behavior of the aquifer not being fully understood, the engineer recommended that Anderson Well #1 be throttled back to 15 gpm (from 23 gpm) when Anderson #2 is also in use.

Lastly, it needs to be clearly conveyed to the membership that no additional water shares were applied for by the board or approved of by the Department of Health as part of this source development project. With the addition of Anderson Well #2, our sources should provide the current membership with sufficient water this summer, based on the Association's historical consumption rates. The Department of Health did not approve additional connections, because there is not enough water produced by our system to warrant an expansion of connections.

Our Thanks to Chris and Susan Anderson

Source development has been the top priority for Westside Water for over 28 years, when the floods of 1988 washed away the previous water collection infrastructure down in the canyon. The situation became more pressing when the arsenic standards were tightened in 2006. Past boards have worked diligently pursuing new sources of sufficient and clean water in the WWA service area. The task has been difficult. But due to the generosity and civic-minded conscious of Chris and Susan Anderson, the Association has been fortunate to have the opportunity to develop this well field with the clean water it provides. Thank you, Chris and Susan!

Assessment to pay for Anderson Well #2

As of the mailing of this newsletter, the final invoices are still arriving for the Anderson Well #2 project. However, with the September 2016 billing, we will begin collecting the assessment required to pay for the new well.

For those members who chose the option of paying the Anderson Well #1 project assessment by making bi-monthly \$16 payments, that assessment ends with the current July 2016 water bill. (It began with the July 2014 billing and ran for a total of 13 bi-monthly billing periods.)

The September 2016 billing will include the beginning of the Anderson Well #2 assessment. The board voted to assess at the bi-monthly rate of \$16 in order that the project be 100% paid for by the time the final loan payment is due in March of 2019.

There are two payment options:

1st payment option:

- Pay \$16 per billing for 15 billing periods, and a final assessment in the 16th billing period to finish paying for the project. It is anticipated that the 16th and final payment will be less than \$16. **The \$16 assessment will be on your September 2016 bill unless you contact Westside Water to make other arrangements (see 2nd payment option below) by August 17th.**

\$16 x 15 billing periods = \$240 per member account (September 2016 - January 2019)

plus

1 billing period x \$TBD (pending receipt of final invoices, and the number of members who choose the 2nd payment option below) = final payment amount (March 2019)

2nd payment option:

- Pay \$240 with your September 2016 billing to cover the first 15 billing periods, and pay the 16th billing period balance payment in March 2019 to finish paying for the project. It is anticipated that the 16th and final payment will be less than \$16. **Please pay this if your budget allows, as the board will forward the additional amount received to our lender in order to reduce the loan interest due and therefore decrease all members' 16th billing period balance payment. For example, if 25% of members pay up front, the Association would save approximately \$1,000 in interest over the life of the loan, and therefore reduce the overall cost of the Anderson Well #2 project by an equal amount. Thank you for your consideration.** To choose the \$240 up-front payment option, please let us know by August 17th by placing a note in your July bill payment or by email at: contact@westsidewater.org

To date, project expenses have totaled \$54,161.39 excluding loan interest. A full accounting of the project's expenses will be shared with the membership after the final invoices are received.

Leaks - a message from our System Manager

As always, we are on the look-out for leaks and appreciate all of you who call in suspected leaks. Thanks extended to Ellen Call and Jill Yates for noticing water near a meter just south of Shinglemill Creek. Also to Heather Lewis for noticing water in the ditch on 115th in early June. A significant leak in a service line was immediately tended to.

During the hot weather many of us start using garden hoses and do outdoor watering or start our irrigation systems. Please check those fittings and hoses, because they tend to wear in the off-season. It is amazing how much water a leaking hose can produce. - Doug Dolstad