

The HYDRANT

CAPE SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT

July 10, 2020

Newsletter No. 137



Be Prepared for the inevitable! Buy a Jug!

Water supply can be interrupted for many reasons. Anything from a catastrophic earthquake to a planned repair that has the water off for a day. Having some drinking water available is just a good idea.



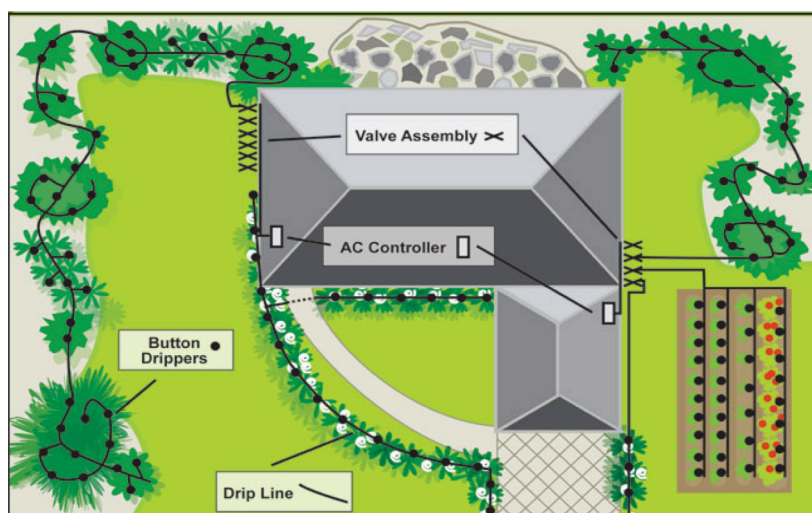
CSJWD has 5.3 gallons collapsible water jugs for sale. BPA free, made for water storage. We are selling them at cost for \$12 (includes tax). If interested, contact Sherri Phelps at csj@rockisland.com or 360-317-8335. Currently 36 are available. We will order more if there is sufficient interest.

Drip Irrigation

A number of homeowners here at the Cape have opted to install drip irrigation systems. They are efficient and unobtrusive, and can be effective if the correct system is chosen for the area to be irrigated. Some systems have emitters every 6" which is only effective if you have plants every 6" or are only watering trees with circles of drip line. If the emitters water where there are no plants, water is being wasted. The best drip-system installation provides water ONLY where plants are located. This takes a bit more thought and effort but is worth it in the long run. Several poorly-implemented drip systems in the Cape use excessive amounts of water during the summer compared to homeowners using localized hand watering or targeted drip systems. Systems that have failed have led to some very high water bills and fines.

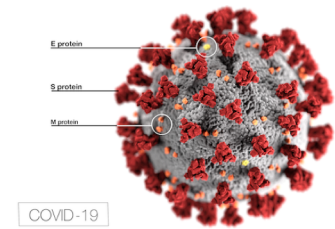
Drip systems are not maintenance free. Sometimes deer will trip over the system causing serious leaks. Also, tubing can pop loose on its own. Metering valves can also fail. It is common practice now to install a master redundant valve that closes off the whole system when all zones are off. This prevents a catastrophic leak in case a valve to a zone fails.

If a drip system is in your plans, please do some homework and choose a system that waters the plants, not bare ground. And choose one that matches your ability to maintain it.



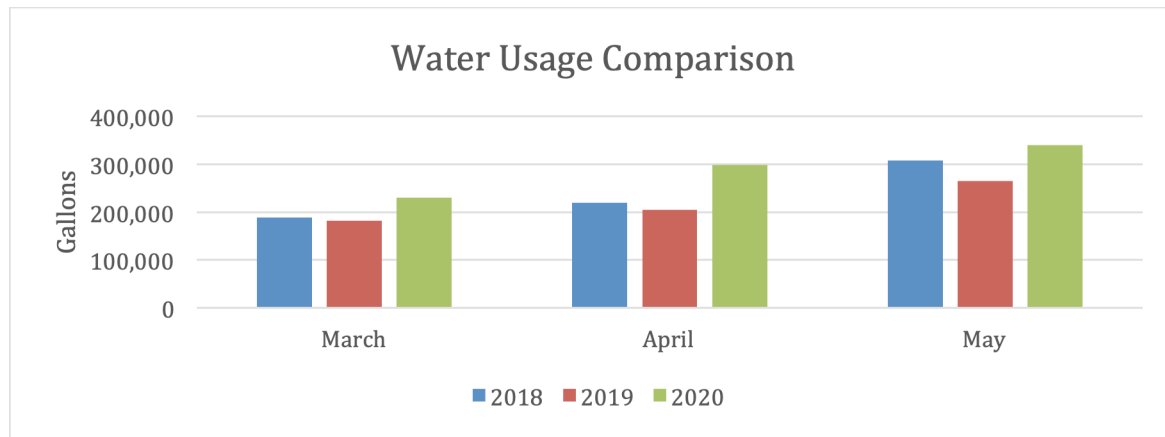
Covid-19 and your Drinking Water

The SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus that causes COVID-19 has never been detected in public drinking water. The Office of Drinking Water at the Washington State Department of Health and public water system operators work every day to protect public water supplies from all bacteriological and viral contamination. The CSJWD follows stringent state guidelines for chlorination of your water supply and this is totally effective in killing coronaviruses, so don't worry about COVID-19 from our water!



Water Usage during this Unusual Time

As many of you have noticed, there are more homeowners at their Cape homes, and they are staying much longer than in the past. They came here to ride out the unusual times. Full timers have family members sheltering with them as well. Because of this, water usage is much higher compared to the same times in previous years. Here is a chart: (Three major leaks during these 9 months were removed to standardize the comparisons).



It is expected that the higher usage will continue at least through the summer, which is already our high usage season, and people are watering landscapes, and possibly growing more food.

Please be mindful of your water usage. If you have extra people in your home, use the postcard notices that were mailed out last year. Conserve water!

Thank You

As some of you may know, Clark Munroe has retired from the CSJ Water Board after over 15 years of service, many as President of the Board. His thoughtful guidance has helped the Board and Cape San Juan Community continue to provide water to our residents at reasonable rates and with high reliability. We will miss his influence, but hope we can solicit his input should the need arise. So a big THANK YOU to you, Clark, from all of us Capers.

Water Board Commissioners
 Roger Hill 425-753-6560
 Betsy Cooper 360-378-4513
 Ken O'Brien 360-370-5642

Water System Manager and Administrative Officer
 Sherri Phelps 360-317-8335 sjwawater@gmail.com
 Layout and design Susie Carey

What you should know about the Cape water system:

- In the event of a major earthquake emergency, the water system will immediately be shut down to prevent loss of water from any ruptured pipes
- Drinking water will be provided at the Firehall from pickup-truck-mounted water tanks.
 - This service may take up to 24 hours to get started.
 - You will need to provide your own containers (Buy a Jug!).
- All household meters will be turned off and the supply lines will be progressively pressurized to determine if and where there are any leaks.
- If possible, service will be restored to households not affected by a supply line leak.
 - If power from OPALCO is unavailable, this service will be extremely limited, as a generator will be used to power the well pumps.
- The system will only be fully restored once OPALCO can provide us with power and any supply line leaks have been patched. It may take many days before water service is restored to your residence
- During the water shutdown, there will be no water at fire hydrants and little to no capacity to extinguish house fires.
- By taking these measures, 5 gallons of drinking water per person per day can be provided for at least 2 months.
- Although this is not strictly a Water District issue, you should know that your septic system will not function for more than a day or two in a power outage, unless it is a gravity system.

What every household should do to get prepared:

- You should have at least 5 gallons of drinking water per household member for your use when the water system is shut down and before water delivery starts.
- You should have a 5-gallon container for each household member to use for collecting water from the firehall.
- You should have other containers for transporting water from the Cape swimming pool (or your own rainwater catchment system) for flushing toilets
- Learn about your septic system: Is it a pumped system that needs power to operate long-term? The map on the last page shows the county-recorded systems for each house. If your system is not a gravity system (and you don't have a generator to power it), you should make arrangements with a neighbor who does have a gravity system to use their toilets if we have an extended power outage.

Suggestions:

- If you already use filtered drinking water that comes in 3-gallon or 5-gallon jugs, get enough spares so that you always have 5 gallons of water per household member. Allow for guests! These jugs can then be used for collecting drinking water from the firehall when you run out.
- Buy a jug (or two) from Sherri.
- Learn how to get water from your hot water tank.
- Get yourself a couple of "Homer" 5-gallon buckets from Home Depot (or equivalent) for transporting pool water for flushing your toilet. Two buckets are easier to carry than one.
- When you leave and turn off your water at the street, turn off your propane at your tank too. This will significantly lower the chance of your house burning to the ground after an earthquake.
 - If you cannot turn off your propane because it is needed for heat, get a seismic shutoff valve installed to automatically turn off your propane after an earthquake.
 - If you are in residence when the earthquake happens, turn off your propane at once. Only turn it back on once all aftershocks have ended, and then turn it back off if you smell gas.

Caveat:

These are the best-guess estimates of how the CSJWD hope to manage a seismic emergency. If the situation is much worse following a massive earthquake (e.g. no water in wells, storage tanks destroyed), we won't be able to guarantee delivery of any water to anyone, and you'll be on your own.

Cape San Juan (For reference only, not a legal document)

