

The HYDRANT

CAPE SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT
May 20, 2019
Newsletter No. 135



Ready for Summer? Again?

One of the most common causes for excess water usage at the Cape is a hose left running. Summer is the time this is most likely to happen. It's best not to leave a hose running unattended, but if you feel the need, use a timer to remind you to turn it off. Those gallons add up fast.

If you are irrigating plants in your yard on a regular basis, avoid using sprinklers as they waste water through evaporation and also because the water is not targeted just to your plant. A "drip" irrigation system uses far less water and the weeds don't grow as fast, since the water is emitted right next to your plant, not on all the adjacent soil.

Leave friendly notes in the bathrooms for visitors to be careful with the water and remind them of the basics (especially kids) that the water does not have to run while brushing your teeth, they don't have to wait until the water is real warm to wash their hands, tell those teens that showers are limited to X amounts or minutes. Get a timer for them if needed.

Watch for a Placard coming in your mail, free from Cape San Juan Water District.

DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS TREATMENT UPDATE

Remember this? Disinfection by-products (DBPs)? A recap for those who are new to the Cape and who may have forgotten...

In 2007 CSJ water was required to test quarterly for DBPs as the reading was higher than what the new regulation allowed. For many years there was no well known way to treat for this on a well system. DBPs were common for surface water but nearly unheard of for well systems. There are not many well systems with this problem, but San Juan Island has the most in one area. So, CSJ water was not required to treat for the DBPs but only to notify the homeowners about them. Eventually some ideas for treatment had formed and an engineer or 2 in the region became specialists in the area. Since there are different types of DBPs there are different ways to treat for them. Action is taken one step at a time to see if it is effective enough for the amount of DBPs in a system.

CSJ water had an aeration system in the tank that sprayed the water going into the tank. A recirculation pump was added so the water in the tank kept going back through the aeration system. This did help but was not quite enough. Then a fan was added to each of the storage tanks in order to suck the DBPs in their gaseous form out of the tanks. This helped a lot and brought 3 of 4 quarterly tests under the allowed amount, which also brought CSJ water under the allowed limit for the year as a whole based on averages.

The WA State Dept. of Health is still requiring CSJ water to take quarterly DBP tests but CSJ water is IN COMPLIANCE. We are considering other steps to bring that once a year test, in August, that continues to be just above the allowed levels to an allowed level.

CONTRACTORS THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE TO INSPECT/REPAIR/REPLACE YOUR DOMESTIC WATER SERVICE LINE

Some of the domestic water service lines here at the Cape are getting to the end of their useful life and/or were installed with inferior pipe and fittings. It appears that service line failures are beginning to occur more frequently here at the Cape with substantial loss of water and costs to the property owner.

The following is a list of some contractors that may be able to help you assess the condition of the service line and determine if it needs repairs or replacement.

The Water Board cannot recommend a specific contractor but believe these contractors have performed inspection and replacement services on San Juan Island in the past. Property owners may wish to obtain references or referrals.

If the condition of the service line is questionable, the Board recommends replacement. Currently there is a \$250 rebate if the line is replaced.

Black Family Enterprises	360-378-4928
Forrest and Erin Excavation	360-622-6436
Harvey's Excavation	360-317-8106
J&M Excavation	360-378-4374
Lawson, Chris Excavation	360-378-2813
Evans, Jeff Excavation	360-378-5614



UPDATED INFORMATION ON CSJ WEB SITE

We recently updated the Water District page located in the 'Owners Info' section of the capesanjuan.org web site. The update reflects revised contact info and the current **Rate Structure**, which was changed last spring. Also included is a clearer explanation of how fines for excessive use are calculated.

To reach this page from the CSJ main menu, select "Owners Info", then log in with your user name and password. Then select "Water District".

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

There's no shortage of information about what we should do in an emergency/disaster. But truth is, not many of us are truly prepared.

Part of the reason is that we are actually dealing with an unknown future situation. And it may be "convenient" for us to assume it will happen when we're not around (one way or another).

The first item on all lists is DRINKING WATER. It turns out that we can survive without food for several days but not so with water.

Humans require about 2 quarts (1/2 gallon) of drinking water per day to survive. More if it is hot or physical exertion is involved. And that doesn't include water for washing or other personal needs. A generally recognized water supply requirement in a disaster is 2-4 gallons per person per day.

The Water Board has plans in place to optimize the ability to continue providing potable water with the existing system (or some modified version) in the event of a disaster. But each homeowner should maintain some amount of bottled water on site and refreshing it periodically in the event that the Cape water system is inoperable.

We have been told that because of our remote location relative to the town of Friday Harbor, we may be on our own until emergency services can reach us. Food for thought.

Water Board Commissioners
Clark Munroe 378-9564
Betsy Cooper 378-4513
Ken O'Brien 370-5642

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