



# Thurston PUD Newsletter

We are committed to providing safe, reliable, affordable, and sustainable water services to our customers.

July 2024

## Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) and Water Use Efficiency (WUEs) Reports

By Kim Gubbe, Director of Planning and Compliance

To meet federal and state requirements, Thurston PUD generates Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) and Water Use Efficiency (WUE) reports for all Group A water systems owned by the PUD. These reports are available by July 1st every year and can be found on our website at [www.ThurstonPUD.org](http://www.ThurstonPUD.org). We thought we should share some of the most popular questions we receive related to this reports.



Kim Gubbe, Director of Planning and Compliance

### What are CCRs?

CCRs also known as annual water quality reports or drinking water quality reports, provide you with important information about the quality of your drinking water and help you understand how your drinking water can affect your health.

### What are WUE reports?

WUEs contain details on the amount of water your system produced and sold for the year. With this information we can determine the system's leak loss and determine if consumers are meeting the PUD's conservation goals. WUE requirements help ensure reliable long-term water supply.

### What types of water systems does the PUD own?

Thurston PUD owns and maintains 276 water systems throughout several counties. Of these 276 water systems, there are 75 Group A water systems and 201 Group B water systems.

### What's the difference between Group A and Group B water systems?

Group A water systems serve 15 or more connections or 25 or more people. Group B water systems serve less than 15 connections or less than 25 people.

### How will I know if I'm on a Group A or Group B system?

If you are a Group A water system customer, a URL link will be listed in the special message portion of your billing statement included with this newsletter. You can also call or email our Customer Service Team to inquire about your water system's name and group type. Our team is available 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., M-F, and can be reached at (360) 357-8783, toll-free at (866) 357-8783, or via email at [PUDCustomerService@thurstonpud.org](mailto:PUDCustomerService@thurstonpud.org).

### I'm a Group B water system customer. Why don't you generate reports for my water system?

Group B systems are regulated by the County and there is no requirement for water purveyors to provide those reports to consumers. *(Continued on Page 2)*

## Thurston PUD Commissioners

### District 1

Linda Oosterman

### District 2

Russell E. Olsen

### District 3

Chris Stearns

## In This Issue

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## PUD Office Closure—Independence Day

The PUD offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4th, 2024, in honor of Independence Day. The PUD is closed for all major holidays, but we are always committed to our customers and staff is available 24/7 for water emergencies.



**If you experience a water service emergency, call us immediately at (360) 357-8783 or toll-free at (866) 357-8783 to report your location. Calls received after normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday) are routed to our answering service and on-call staff.**

## HOA Governing Documents Concerning Drought Resistant & Wildfire Ignition Resistant Landscaping



On April 16, 2024, a statewide drought was declared by Department of Ecology with limited exceptions for the Seattle, Everett, and Tacoma metro areas. The drought means stream flows and reservoir levels in some areas of Washington are far below normal which can cause water supply shortages for some communities. In response, the Washington State Legislature made changes to RCW 64.38.057, Homeowner Associations governing documents concerning drought resistant landscaping and wildfire ignition resistant landscaping. The updates state that HOA’s may not impose fines or assessments to tenants or property owners for reducing or eliminating watering their lawns or vegetation during a declared drought.

For more information on the RCW, you can visit <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=64.38.057>. For more information on the Washington Drought Declaration, you can visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-supply/Water-availability/Statewide-conditions/Drought-response>.

## Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) and Water Use Efficiency (WUEs) Reports *(Continued from Page 1)*

**Remember, if you are a Group A water system customer, the link to your water system’s CCR and WUE is listed as a special message on the billing statement included with this newsletter.** You can also find these reports listed on our website at [www.thurstonpud.org](http://www.thurstonpud.org): click on the “Water Systems” tab at the top of the webpage, then the “Annual Water System Reports” link to find the name of your water system. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Customer Service Team by phone at (360) 357-8783, toll-free at (866) 357-8783, or via email at [PUDCustomerService@thurstonpud.org](mailto:PUDCustomerService@thurstonpud.org).

For more information about drinking water, practices, and regulations, visit our website at [www.thurstonpud.org/links-and-forms.htm](http://www.thurstonpud.org/links-and-forms.htm) for a list of links to the Washington State Department of Health and other industry organizations.

Report Type	Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR)	Water Use Efficiency Reports (WUE)
Purpose	CCRs contain details about your water source, explanation of contaminants and their presence in your drinking water, and other information about the PUD and your water system. <i>These reports are also referred to as annual water quality reports or drinking water quality reports.</i>	WUEs contain details on the amount of water produced and consumed for the year, the system’s leak loss percentage and its conservation goals. WUE requirements help ensure reliable long-term water supply and help reduce energy use which leads to cost savings.
Required By	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Consumer Confidence Report Rule	Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-290

## Drip Irrigation for the Yard and Garden

Drip irrigation is an effective way to water your garden and has many advantages over sprinklers. Drip irrigation is any watering system that delivers a slow-moving supply of water at a gradual rate directly to the soil. It uses a series of small tubes that run along the ground to deliver water directly to plants. The system is simple to install and requires minimal maintenance.



Benefits to gardeners using drip irrigation include: money saved from using less water, improved plant health and growth, and more control over where water is applied in a garden or landscape.

One of the biggest advantages of drip irrigation is its ability to conserve water. Typical sprinkler systems are, on average, about 75% water efficient, with water lost to wind drift and evaporation. Drip irrigation systems have 90% or higher water efficiency, with minimal water loss coming from evaporation from the small soil surface area that gets wet. The slow delivery rate of drip irrigation allows the soil to absorb the water laterally and maintain a uniform moisture level. The direct delivery of water to the soil also removes the risk of wind dispersal.

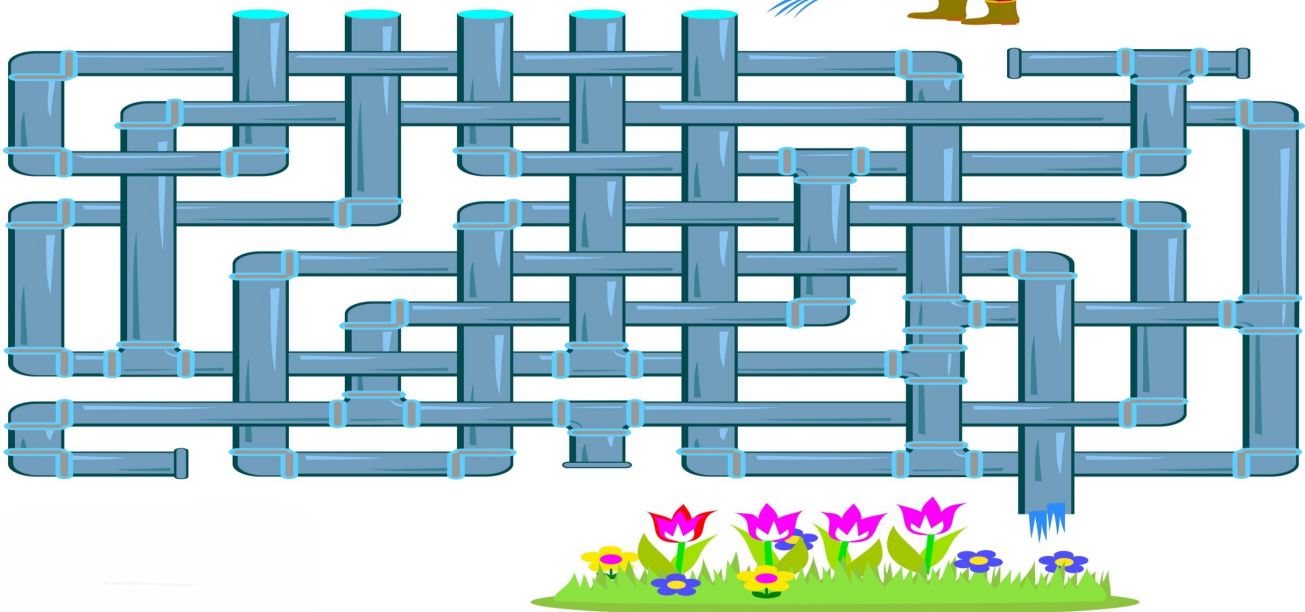
Drip irrigation also allows a plant's leaves to stay dry, reducing the risk of plant diseases that thrive in wet conditions. Drip irrigation typically allows a much higher degree of control over the soil water content.

Drip systems are easy to design and install. They don't require any trench digging and the above-ground tubing can be conformed to a variety of landscapes and can also extend to hanging planters, or down rows in a vegetable garden or flowerbeds. This makes them a great option for home gardeners and installing the system yourself will save a considerable amount of money.

For more information on drip irrigation and other water conservation tips, you can visit our website at [www.thurstonpud.org/water-systems.htm](http://www.thurstonpud.org/water-systems.htm).

## Puzzle Time! Help The Gardener Water His Flower Bed

Follow the tubes to determine what one the gardener needs to use for the water to reach his flowers.





## Pumphouse Rebuild Project

Thurston PUD recently rebuilt a water system pumphouse that was at the end of its useful life. PUD Staff went out to bid for this project and received bids far above the in-house estimates. To reduce costs, the project was instead completed by PUD staff which saved nearly \$40,000. This Capital Improvement Project was funded with the existing Capital Surcharge paid monthly by all Thurston PUD customers.



Thurston PUD Field Staff pictured constructing the new pumphouse in Pierce County.