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# Drinking Water Quality Report for Kapowsin Water System

Pierce County  
Water System ID #37750

# 2020

In this report, you will find information about:

## **YOUR WATER**

Your Water System  
Source Water Protection  
Cross-Connection Control

## **TEST RESULTS**

Possible Contaminants  
Key Table Definitions  
Lead Information  
Water Quality Table  
Copper Information

## **WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?**

The water source for this system is a water collection system that gathers water from a series of natural surface water features located over 1 mile northwest of the Kapowsin System. The water is then gravity fed into a storage tank and eventually pumped through a filtration system. As the receiver of record, Pierce County continues to work toward obtaining a new water source and evaluating other options to ensure a clean, safe and reliable water system.

## **HOW IS MY WATER TREATED?**

Your water is treated by filtration and disinfection. Filtration removes particles suspended in the source water. Particles typically include clays and silts, natural organic matter, iron and manganese, and microorganisms. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectants to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms (viruses, cysts, etc.) that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

*The Kapowsin System is currently in receivership by Pierce County. Day to day operation of the water system is being conducted by Valley Water District. If you have any questions about the information in the report or any concern regarding water quality and the services we deliver every day, you may contact Valley Water District at 253-841-9698 or Pierce County at 253-798-6169.*

# Water Quality Report Information



**Valley Water District** is pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

**Valley Water District** vigilantly safeguards and routinely monitors your drinking water. We are providing this report as a snapshot of water quality monitoring for the calendar year of the report (unless otherwise noted). The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old.

## How Can I Get Involved?

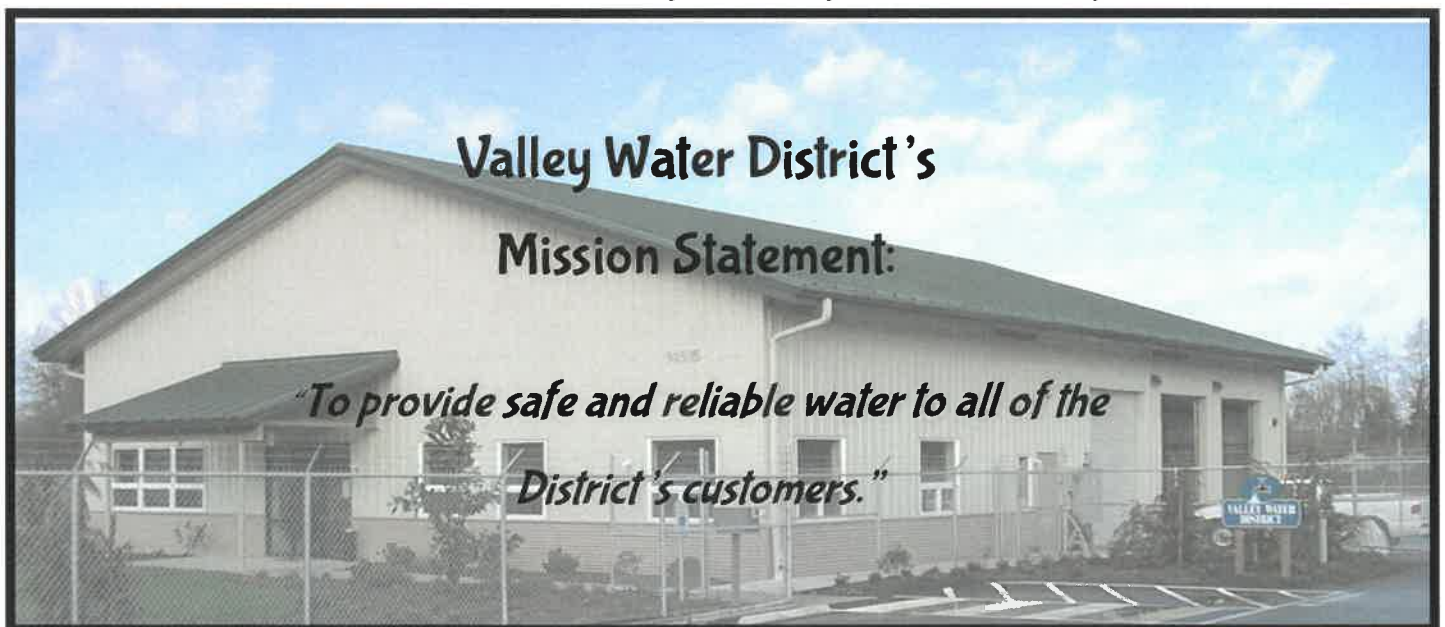
We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you would like to learn more, please attend any regularly scheduled Board Meeting held at the District Office on the first and third Tuesday of each month, at 7:00pm.

## Questions?

If you have any questions about the information in this report, or any concern regarding water quality and the services we deliver every day, please contact the District office at 253-841-9698.

Sean Vance, District Manager ~ Brian Thompson, Field Supervisor ~ Email: [service@valleywaterdistrict.com](mailto:service@valleywaterdistrict.com)

**Visit [www.wateruseitwisely.com](http://www.wateruseitwisely.com) for great water saving tips!**



## Possible Contaminants

Common sources of drinking water—both tap and bottled water—include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, and reservoirs (surface water), and wells and springs (groundwater).

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials dissolve in the water.

Water can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

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 that water poses a health risk.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses, parasites, and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife.

**Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.

**Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from various sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

**Organic Chemical Contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production. They can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive Contaminants**, which can occur naturally or result from oil and gas production and mining activities.

*In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.*

## VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT SOURCE WATER:

- Ensure that your septic system is properly maintained.
- Use chemical fertilizers and pesticides sparingly, if at all.
- Don't dump any hazardous waste on the ground or down the drain. This includes motor oil, pesticides, paint, household cleaners, medicines, etc.

## Check the SWAP information for your water system:

The WA State Department of Health Office of Drinking Water has compiled Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) data for all community water systems. An interactive map with data for your water system is available at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/swap/index.html>

## Cross-Connection Control Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business.

A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system.

Valley Water District is responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system.

If you have any of the devices listed below, please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

Do you have one of these at your home or business?

- Lawn irrigation system
- Pool or hot tub
- Decorative pond or fountain
- Watering trough
- Fire sprinkler system
- Additional source(s) of water on the property



If you do, Washington State law may require that you have a “Backflow Prevention Assembly”. The purpose of this device is to provide “cross connection control” - preventing contaminated water from flowing back into your drinking water - a serious health hazard.

However, even the best Backflow Prevention Assembly can fail because of freezing, debris, improper installation and unapproved plumbing connections. For this reason, the state’s Department of Health requires these devices to be tested annually by a certified backflow assembly tester, with a copy of the test record sent to Valley Water District.

### Customers with a BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY:

### Consider “Opting In” to our TESTING PROGRAM!

In 2018, the District created a program that allows customers with backflow devices that are required to have annual testing done to “OPT IN” and have the District coordinate with a contractor to perform the test at a significantly reduced rate of \$26.00 per device (most testers charge \$40-\$90 per device). It’s not too late to opt in if you haven’t yet, you can find the Backflow Testing Agreement on the District website at [www.valleywaterdistrict.com](http://www.valleywaterdistrict.com) under FORMS.



If you are already opted in...no need to worry about future testing. Every year between May and September, the District will automatically have the contractor, Randy Horne with Aqua Backflow Testing, perform the testing for each property that has opted in.

## KEY TABLE DEFINITIONS

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Minimum Reporting Level (MRL):** Also known as the Method Reporting Limit: The smallest amount of a substance that can be reliably quantitated in sample.

**NA:** Not Applicable

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** a standard to measure water clarity.

**Not Detected (ND):** This compound was analyzed and not detected at a level greater than or equal to the State Detection Reporting Level.

**PPB =** Parts per billion

**PPM =** Parts per million

**µmhos/cm =** The basic unit of measurement of conductivity.

**mg/L =** milligrams per liter

**Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL):** These standards are developed as guidelines to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

**State Detection Reporting Limit (SDRL):** The minimum reportable detection of an analyte as established by DOH.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Variations and Exemptions:** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL, an action level, or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

### Information About Lead...

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. Valley 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 1-800-426-4791 or online at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## Water Quality Testing Results for 2020 Kapowsin Water System

**PRIMARY CONTAMINANTS:**

Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation?	Typical Source
				Low	High			
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>								
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	NA	60	1.6	NA	NA	2020	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Trihalomethanes, Total (ppb)	NA	80	3.27	NA	NA	2020	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Antimony (mg/L)	6	6	<.0030	NA	NA	2020	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition
Arsenic (mg/L)	0	10	<.0010	NA	NA	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Asbestos (MFL)	7	7	0.117	NA	NA	2019	No	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits.
Barium (mg/L)	2	2	<.010	NA	NA	2020	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (mg/L)	4	4	<.00030	NA	NA	2020	No	Discharge from metal refineries and coal burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries.
Cadmium (mg/L)	5	5	<.0010	NA	NA	2020	No	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Chromium (mg/L)	100	100	<.0070	NA	NA	2020	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.
Cyanide (mg/L)	200	200	<.05	NA	NA	2020	No	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories.
Fluoride (mg/L)	4	4	<0.20	NA	NA	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Mercury [Inorganic] (mg/L)	2	2	<.00020	NA	NA	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills and crop land.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (mg/L)	10	10	3.88	3.85	3.88	2020	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (mg/L)	1	1	<.10	NA	NA	2020	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (mg/L)	50	50	<.0020	NA	NA	2020	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.
Thallium (mg/L)	0.5	2	<.0010	NA	NA	2020	No	Discharge from electronics, glass, and leaching from ore-processing sites; drug factories.

Abbreviations are explained in the "Key Table Definitions" on the previous page of this report.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR LEAD AND COPPER TESTING RESULTS

## Water Quality Testing Results for 2020 Kapowsin Water System

### LEAD AND COPPER TESTING (2019):

Samples are collected at customer kitchen or bathroom taps. The number of homes sampled is based on population served by the water system. This testing is done every three years and the most recent sample date is from 2019.

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# of Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL?	Typical Source
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	1.46	2019	2	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	1	2019	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Violations and Exceedances: Copper - action level at consumer taps</b>							
<p>Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor. Lead and Copper samples are required to be collected every 3 years. The most recent round of samples was gathered in October 2019. The results of the samples indicated a slightly elevated level of copper. Pierce County is working closely with DOH to find a long term solution which may include treatment or possibly an alternate water source. After examining data from copper samples gathered in years past there was sufficient evidence to indicate that elevated copper has been an ongoing issue and not unique to this sample set. The best long term solution is to seek an alternate source of water, however, a study of the cause of elevated copper along with the possible long term solutions was initiated this year (2020). Engineers will analyze the results of the data that has been gathered and recommend treatment options which will be implemented providing the existing surface water source remains in operation.</p>							