

Board Byline

By Paul Gornick, Board President

Imagine a Day Without Water was created by the US Water Alliance to encourage us to pause and reflect on why we value water. On October 21, 2021, consider what your day would look like if you could not turn on the tap and get clean drinking water, or if you flushed the toilet and the wastewater did not go anywhere? What would happen to restaurants, hospitals, firefighters, farms, breweries, or the hundreds of industries that depend on water?

We don't usually stop to think about the impressive infrastructure and treatment required to make sure water comes out when you turn on the tap or safely returns to the environment from under your sink. The District provides essential drinking water and wastewater services to protect the health of nearly 29,000 people in your community.



Photographed above is one of the five wastewater pump stations that moves sewage from low lying areas to higher areas that can then gravity flow to the District's Water Reclamation Facility. These pump stations are critical to transporting sewage. This fall, as part of the District five year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), the wastewater pump station in the photo above will be upgraded, which will reduce the amount of emergency repairs. CIP projects invest your hard earned dollars, improve the resilience of our natural resources, and protect public health.



Fish on the Run, Irrigation Done

The Clackamas River provides drinking water to over 300,000 people and is also home to Chinook and Coho Salmon. In the fall, Chinook and Coho Salmon return home to the Clackamas River to spawn.

This summer has been very dry in our area. Data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) shows we are experiencing severe drought conditions. With low river levels, saving water is more important than ever.

To save water in the Clackamas River, we are asking customers to participate in the "Fish On the Run, Irrigation Done!" annual watering campaign. You can participate by reducing or shutting-off your outdoor watering system in September. This will ensure there is enough water for Chinook and Coho Salmon to migrate and spawn this fall.

Pledge to do your part and receive a yard sign to let your neighbors know your helping to keep water in the Clackamas River: clackamasproviders.org/pledge-application

Community Participation

You're invited to attend Virtual District Board Meetings. At this time, Board meetings are being held online. Learn how to call in at oaklodgewaterservices.org or email info@olwsd.org for assistance. The upcoming meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on September 21 and October 19.



September is National Preparedness Month

As we've learned from this summer's heatwaves, February's ice storms, and the COVID-19 pandemic, emergencies can take many forms and can affect our daily lives in unexpected ways. For example, you might have needed to search for toilet paper at the start of the pandemic or had a hard time charging your electronics due to winter storm power outages. If you had a well-stocked emergency kit already, you may have already had items on hand to help you.

Whether you are just starting to pull together your first kit or adding to an existing one, September is a good time to check in on your own preparedness. Fortunately, pulling together the needed supplies for an emergency kit isn't difficult and doesn't have to be expensive.

Get started with this helpful checklist, and then take stock of what you already have around your house: regionalh2o.org/emergency-preparedness.

Pack up your items in an easy-to-carry container and store them in a centralized, accessible location. Finally, add the remaining items to your shopping list and pick up a few things every time you go to the store. Don't forget to include drinking water!

If you are already well-equipped, now is the time to check the best by dates on your food, change out your emergency water, or add a missing item from the above checklist. Of course, being well prepared goes beyond an emergency kit. Find out what else you need to do to get ready for emergencies at PublicAlerts.org.

Storm drain Cleaning Assistance Program (SCAP)

The District coordinates this discount program to assist area businesses. Storm drains require regular cleaning to remove pollutants and prevent flooding. The discounted flat fee of \$50 covers removal of debris from standard parking lot drains.

Registration is open September 1 - October 31 at oaklodgewaterservices.org/SCAP

Fertilize Once a Year, in the Fall

The time to apply fertilizer is when the grass is growing more roots than blades. You can help protect water quality and have a healthy lawn if you fertilize just once a year. Choose a high-quality fall fertilizer containing slow-release nitrogen and apply it according to the directions in September/October. This will promote growth in the spring and protect our waterways. With your help, we can reduce the amount of chemicals used on our home gardens and lawns.



Emergency Contact Information

Our team is available 24 hours a day at (503) 654-7765. If you see water gushing up out of either the street, ground, or from a manhole, please call us. Use the same number if you notice sewer spills or if you see someone illegally dumping into a storm drain.



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