



# City of Langley

## 2010 Consumer Confidence Report June 2011

### CONTENTS

- Water Saver Challenge
- 2010 Water Quality Report
- From the Desk of Mayor Paul Samuelson

### Questions about this report?

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### SIGN-UP BY THURSDAY, JULY 7th

### 2011 Water Saver Challenge



Langley Village

## Join the 2011 Water Saver Challenge!

**SEE IF YOU CAN USE LESS WATER THIS SUMMER** than you used last year! Last year the City had 6 participants in the water saver challenge, and together they saved over 1,110 gallons per day.

The City of Langley's single largest electric expense is to pump and treat water. Join this summer's effort to reduce our city's energy footprint by taking part in the **2011 Water Saver Challenge**. Save money on your water bill at the same time! Sign up for the challenge; here is how it works:

1. **Sign up by Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup>** – Email your name and address to [pubwks@langleywa.org](mailto:pubwks@langleywa.org) or sign-up at the city hall front desk (M – TH, 9 AM – 5 PM).
2. **Save water this summer** – Save as much water as possible using the water saving tips and resources available at the web link below. The Public Works Department will analyze your water usage this summer (July 9<sup>th</sup> – August 31<sup>st</sup>) to calculate the percent reduction in gallons used from the previous summer.
3. **Be Recognized** – All participants will be recognized, with special recognition for the top three water saver individuals.

### Source Protection Information

Source Water Assessment Program data for the City's water system is available online at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/sw/assessment.htm>. If you don't have access to the Web, we encourage you to use the Internet service available through the public library system.

### Water Turn On/Off at Your Meter

**Remember to contact the Public Works Department** for water turn-on and turn-off at your water meter. Call if you need your water turned off to repair a leak, because you are leaving for an extended period of time, or for other reasons. Turn off/on charges will apply in most cases:

- During city business hours \$10
- After city business hours \$30
- Penalty for non-City approved turn on/off \$50

**Before turning off/on your water contact Public Works!**

(360) 221-4246

# 2010 Water Quality Report

The City of Langley is pleased to present the 2010 Annual Water Quality Report. This report informs you about the quality of the water that the City of Langley provided last year. Included are details on where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. This report covers state required information and is a valuable service to our water customers who depend on the City's water system.

Your drinking water is highly regulated by the EPA and is tested regularly. Keeping pace with upgraded water testing and more stringent federal standards is a challenge but one that the City of Langley strongly supports. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe source of drinking water.

## Our Water System

The City of Langley is a water utility of 993 connections. Our water system consist of 3 wells, an additional emergency well and a storage tank, which are located west of Island County Fairgrounds, in our watershed area well field. After the water is drawn from the wells we add disinfectant (chlorine) to protect you against microbial contaminants. The Mayor and City Council Members work with a Director of Public Works and the Utility Supervisor, who are certified water operators, to bring you good quality water.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the City's water utility, your water, or this report, please contact the Public Works Department. In a water emergency, please call 911.



2nd Street Park

## Presence of Contaminants in Drinking Water

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 the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or looking on the website at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/>

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radio-active material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

### Contaminants that may be present in source water before it is chlorinated include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.
- Radioactive contaminants, which are naturally occurring.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Health (DOH) and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to DOH and EPA's regulations. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Washington Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised 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. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

### *EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline*

1-800-426-  
4791

### *Website:*

[www.epa.gov/  
safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/)



Langley-Woodmen Cemetery

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2010 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2010. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.



South Whidbey Historical

Disinfectant Residual	MCL	MCLG	Langley Water	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (mg/L)	4	4	.35	.01—1.87	2010	NO	Water additive to control microbes
Inorganic Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Langley Water	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Nitrate as nitrogen (ppm)	10	10	2.48	ND—2.48	2010	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0	3	3	2010	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.006	.006	2010	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.30	.036-.52 (20 homes)	2008	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing system
Lead (ppb)	15	0	.82	ND-5 (20 homes)	2008	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing system
Volatile Organic Contaminants	MCL/AL	MCLG	Langley Water	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Total Trihalomethane (ppb)	80	N/A	2.3	2.3	2010	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection

## Terminology

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

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

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

**ppm** (parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)): about the same as 1/2 an aspirin tablet dissolved in a bathtub full (50 gallons of water).

**ppb** (parts per billion or micrograms per liter): about the same as 1 dissolved aspirin in a 100,000 gallon swimming pool).

**MRDL** (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): 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.

**MRDLG** (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): 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.

## Additional Information

**Why does the taste and odor of the water sometime differ?** Water naturally varies in taste and odor at different times of the year. Taste and odor problems can also come from new or old pipelines, plumbing fixtures or changes in water quality. Customers may notice changes during severe winter storms, when reservoirs are low, or during hot weather. The City of Langley closely monitors such changes to ensure they do not affect the safety of the water.

**Water Security:** While Washington State's Division of Drinking Water has never been lax regarding this issue, they have implemented more stringent guidelines to be sure that all that can be done is being done to protect your water quality. Four topics the State is focused on are: 1) Emergency Response, 2) Sanitary Surveys, 3) Operator Certifications, and 4) Enforcement. The City of Langley supports the Department of Health in these efforts and continues to do all we can to maintain good quality water.

**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. The City of Langley 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## Conclusion

Through water monitoring and testing we have learned that some elements have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels. Every month our system is tested for Fecal Coliform Bacteria. All water samples came back from the lab with a good report. As you can see from the table, our system had no violations in 2010. **We are proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements.**

*Department of Health*  
*Drinking Water website:*  
[www.doh.wa.gov/chp/dw/](http://www.doh.wa.gov/chp/dw/)



The Heron



City of  
Langley

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PO Box 366  
Langley, WA 98260

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LANGLEY, WA  
PERMIT NO. 18

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION INSIDE

- 2011 Water Saver Challenge!
- 2010 Water Quality Report

VISIT US ON THE WEB  
[www.langleywa.org](http://www.langleywa.org)

## Water Use Efficiency

In 2003, the Washington State Legislature passed Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1338, better known as the Municipal Water Law, to address the increasing demand on our state's water resources. The law established that all municipal water suppliers must use water more efficiently in exchange for water right certainty and flexibility to help them meet future demand. The Legislature passed requirements in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-290 and directed the Department of Health to adopt an enforceable Water Use Efficiency (WUE) program, which became effective in January of 2007.

The WUE requirements emphasize the importance of measuring water use and evaluating the effectiveness of our WUE program. There are three fundamental elements to the program; planning requirements, distribution leakage standard, and goal setting and WUE reporting. The City is required to collect data, forecast demand, evaluate WUE measures, calcu-

late distribution system leakage and implement a WUE program to meet our goals. We are also required to meet a distribution system leakage standard of 10% or less to minimize water loss from our distribution system. In addition, we are required to set WUE goals and report them annually.

On September 7, 2010 the City Council adopted Resolution 725 which established our WUE goal to **reduce residential water use by 2% in the summer months of July/August by September 2016**. Last year our Water Saver Challenger participants reduced usage by 49% during this period!

The City also purchased an acoustic leak detector which enabled us to locate and repair nine leaks in our distribution system. Crews also found one unmetered connection and installed a meter. The City had a 9.4% water loss from our distribution system, which falls below the 10% standard.

### MAYOR'S SUMMER TIP

**Join the  
2011 Water Saver  
Challenge**

**Look inside to find out  
how to sign-up!**



City of Langley