



City of Langley

2008 Consumer Confidence Report

June 2009

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Questions about this report?

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New Stormwater Rates Effective July 1, 2009

September 2009 bill will reflect your new rate

When it Rains it Puddles Stormwater Rates Updated

Have you noticed street erosion, flooding and puddling during the rainy months? A recent update of the city's comprehensive stormwater plan identified many deficiencies in our stormwater system and recommended a plan to make improvements. A key issue was the lack of funding to maintain the current stormwater system.

The city's stormwater rates have not increased since 1994. Instead the city has been using street funds to subsidize stormwater operations, maintenance, and debt. Stormwater fees bring in an annual revenue of \$24,523 at the current rate of \$2.90 a month. The annual stormwater expenses are \$138,609. This is an annual deficit of \$114,068. For many years this deficit has been covered by funds that should have gone to maintain and improve city streets. In addition, the current stormwater revenue does not allow the city to set aside funds that would match grants we could receive for stormwater capital improvements.

In June, the City Council approved a five-year stormwater rate schedule that initially covers annual operating expenses, and then provides annual increases to accrue funds for capital improvements.

Single-Family Five-Year Stormwater Rate Schedule

July 1 2009	Jan 1 2010	Jan 1 2011	Jan 1 2012	Jan 1 2013
\$13.50/month	\$17.60/month	\$21.70/month	\$22.70/month	\$23.70/month

"We realize it is a hard time, but the City has to be responsible and adequately fund the stormwater system." Jim Recupero, Council Member

The new rate structure will allow the City to direct funds to repair and maintain our streets and stormwater system, while building reserves for capital improvements. The capital improvement projects are listed in the updated 2009 Stormwater Comprehensive Plan. A copy of the plan is available to review at City Hall and on the city website at www.langleywa.org/public-works.html.



City of Langley stormwater catch basin

Monthly Stormwater Rates effective July 1, 2009

Single Residential Developed	13.50
Residential Multifamily	16.31
Residential Multifamily over 2 units	27.96
Residential Undeveloped	6.99
Commercial Developed	18.64
Commercial Undeveloped	6.99
Dedicated Undeveloped	0.00
Acreage Developed	16.31
Acreage Undeveloped	6.99
Primary Residential w/ Commercial	13.50
Primary Commercial w/ Residential	18.64
Public Facilities	27.96

2008 Water Quality Report

The City of Langley is pleased to present the 2008 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.



Langley Cemetery Ash Garden

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.

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, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations.

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.

*EPA's Safe
Drinking Water
Hotline*

1-800-426-4791

Website:

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



City of Langley water pump house

Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2008 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, 2008. 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.



City of Langley water reservoir

Microbiological Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Langley Water	Number of samples	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	Does not apply	0	positive	1	2008	Yes*	Naturally present in the environment
Inorganic Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Langley Water	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Nitrate as nitrogen (ppm)	10	10	1.0	0.1-1.8	2008	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0	4.0	4.0	2007	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards
Lead & Copper	MCL/AL	MCLG	Langley Water	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	15	0	.82	ND-5	2008	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing system
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.30	.036-.52	2008	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing system

* Health Effects: Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in one sample taken and this was a warning of potential problems. The water was tested immediately after and no coliforms were found to be present.

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 allowed 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, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

ND (Not Detected)

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).

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.

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. 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/*



Park Avenue storm interceptor



**City of
Langley**

112 2nd Street
PO Box 366
Langley, WA 98260

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LANGLEY, WA
PERMIT NO. 18

IMPORTANT INFORMATION INSIDE

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VISIT US ON THE WEB
www.langleywa.org

From the Desk of Mayor Paul Samuelson Behind the Scenes at City Hall

Last December I experienced the City of Langley at its best. Behind the scenes, 24/7, the Public Works Department manages the City's water, sewer and stormwater systems, streets, parks and buildings. Even for a small city it is a big job.

When I came into office a year and a half ago one of my first priorities was to fill the open public works director position. Challis Stringer was hired from within and has built a strong team that is implementing many long-needed improvements to the City's infrastructure.

With Challis' leadership the City has completed three major street projects, added 30 new parking spaces downtown, brought the operation of the sewage treatment plant in-house and instituted cross-training of staff for greater efficiencies and coverage flexibility.

I see the care and commitment that the public works staff gives every day to the City and its residents.

This summer you will see the public works staff downtown watering the hanging flower pots and the flower pots on First Street. As a conservation effort they are using non-potable water from the sewer treatment plant.

Just recently, the City received the 2008 "Wastewater Treatment Plant Outstanding Performance" award from the Washington State Department of Ecology. Less than a third of all plants statewide received this honor for achieving full compliance with the discharge permit standards.

Now back to December 2008 - the winter snow storm of the decade! I was fortunate enough to see first hand the public works staff working tirelessly around the clock to clear the streets. With limited equipment, and overcoming equipment break-downs by reaching out to the school district and the county, they persevered. They made an awesome team!

Thank you Bryan, Challis, Frank, Randi, Rob and Tim for serving the City of Langley!

MAYOR'S SUMMER TIP

Brown is the New Green

Let your lawn go dormant this summer. Conserve water by not watering your lawn and show how green you can be!



Mayor Samuelson plowing the snow
December 2008