



## CITY OF MEDICAL LAKE 2016 WATER EFFICIENCY REPORT

### WATER USE EFFICIENCY RULE

In 2003, the Washington State Legislature passed Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1338, more commonly known as the Municipal Water Law. One of the provisions of the law was to direct the State Department of Health (DOH) to develop and adopt rules governing water use efficiency and water conservation by public water systems throughout the state. After a lengthy process, the Water Use Efficiency (WUE) Rule was adopted in January of 2007. The WUE Rule requires that public water systems develop water use efficiency and conservation goals. The City developed both supply side (City) and demand side (customer) goals and measures to achieve those goals. A public hearing was held on November 3, 2009 to receive public input and adopt the presented goals and measures. In 2015, the City initiated an update of its Comprehensive Water System Plan, including within the plan an update of the WUE plan and goals. The WUE Rule requires public water systems to report annually to their customers on the progress they are making toward reaching the set goals. This report details the goals and measures adopted and how the City is working towards meeting them.

### WATER USE EFFICIENCY GOALS AND MEASURES

The City adopted the following WUE goals for the years 2015 through 2020 at the June 16, 2015 City Council Meeting:

#### **Supply Side (City) Goal**

1. Distribution system leakage of 10% or less of production

#### **Measures to Achieve Goal**

- Continued replacement of aging water meters with new radio read meters;
- Repair water leaks in a timely manner;
- Track all water usage including bulk water (ie. Water used when flushing water mains, Fire Department use, etc.)
- Annual leak detection as needed;
- Replacement of leaking service lines with non-corroding plastic pipe.

#### **Demand Side (Customer) Goal**

1. Reduce average annual consumption by 5% by 2021

## Measures to Achieve Goal

- Continued summer water restrictions
- Utilize reclaimed water from the City's wastewater treatment facility for large irrigation areas (parks, cemeteries, etc.);
- Use the City's website to provide conservation education;
- Use the City's website to inform customers of Spokane County Conservation District workshops;
- Mail flyers to each individual account holder reminding them to conserve water use.

### PROGRESS

The City of Medical Lake Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) continues to produce Class A reclaim water, of which the following facilities put to beneficial use (all amounts listed are yearly totals for 2015):

Shepard Field: 3,002,000 gallons

WWTF Grounds: 5,587,000 gallons

Washington State Veterans Cemetery (via West Medical Lake): 18,177,152 gal.

West Medical Lake (WWTF Outfall #1): 68,030,000 gallons

By the end of 2015, the City had replaced approximately 1445 of the 1450 total meters on the water system with new radio read capabilities, a project that has spanned the previous five years.

The City, by ordinance, enforces outside irrigation restrictions beginning June 1<sup>st</sup> and ending October 1<sup>st</sup>. Restrictions consist of no outside irrigation between the hours of 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., eliminating water loss due to evaporation during the warmest portions of the day.

The City uses its website to post pertinent information on water conservation, workshops and educational materials.

The City employs an escalating water rate, providing a financial incentive for consumers to use less water, especially for outside irrigation. An escalating water rate is a water rate that increases based on the amount of water used. For example, the rate for using zero to 20,000 gallons per month is less than using 30,001 to 40,000 gallons of water per month, and so on.

### 2015 WATER USE STATISTICS

Water Purchased and Produced:	286,770,000 gallons;
Water Sold:	266,058,000 gallons;
Water Unaccounted for:	18,121,286.00 gallons;
Percentage of Water Unaccounted for:	6.3%
Average of Water Unaccounted for (2013 thru 2015):	6.35%