



**2007 Consumer Confidence Report**



# Ensuring the Quality of Your Water is Safe



**2007 WATER QUALITY REPORT** At the City of Camas we understand how important it is to ensure the quality of the water we provide. The health of our consumers and their families is paramount. We work diligently to provide top quality water to more than 16,280 consumers each day. We are therefore pleased to report that our drinking water is safe, and surpasses all State and Federal health standards. We ask that all of our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future.

This report provides a summary of the tests and processes performed to ensure the safety of your drinking water. For more information or questions about this report, please contact Mike Stevens at 817-1563, ext. 4283. This report can also be found on our website at [www.ci.camas.wa.us](http://www.ci.camas.wa.us).

**WHAT'S AHEAD** With the continuing development in our area, water service interruptions may take place throughout the community this summer. We will make our best effort to notify you prior to any disruption of service and will work to minimize the outage. Our water system continues to change and expand to keep pace with the demand for reliable clean water for industrial, commercial, and residential use. We are currently under construction on Well #13 to provide another dependable water source. The City of Camas anticipates the start of construction on a utility bridge crossing the Washougal River that will provide added distribution capacity to our system. We continue to upgrade our booster and reservoir systems to provide reliability in water delivery.

## 2007 WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS

The City of Camas has its water analyzed for more than 200 different contaminants, some regulated and some not regulated. Only the contaminants that have a test result are required by law to be reported to the public. The contaminants listed below are REGULATED and were in Camas' water during 2007. All samples taken are from treated water that is delivered to the distribution system. All are below levels allowed by federal and state agencies. We have provided the following definitions to help you understand the terms and abbreviations that are used in the Test Results.

**Color Units** - Color may be indicative of dissolved organic material, inadequate treatment, high disinfectant demand and the potential for the production of excess amounts of disinfectant by-products. Inorganic contaminants such as metals are also common causes of color. In general, the point of consumer complaint is variable over a range from 5 to 30 color units, though most people find color objectionable over 15 color units.

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal** – The “Goal” (MCLG) is 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.

**Milligrams per liter (MG/L)** - a unit used in reporting the concentration of matter in water as determined by water analyses.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - Nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Ug/L** – Units of measurement in micrograms/liter. A unit of concentration for dissolved substances based on their weights.

**uMhos/cm (micromos per centimeter)** – Used to measure conductivity. Conductivity is the numerical expression of the ability of water to carry an electrical current. It is determined by the number of ionic particles present.

# 2007 Water Quality Test Results

Contaminant (Unit Measurement)	Violation?	Level Detected	Goal MCLG	Max. Allowed MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride (MG/L)	No	1.08	2	4	sodium fluoride added to Camas water to maintain good dental hygiene
Nitrate (MG/L)	No	1.68	5	10	runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Mercury (MG/L)	No	.00099	0.002	0.002	erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from croplands
<b>Inorganic Contaminants EPA Regulated (Secondary)</b>					
Chloride (MG/L)	No	5.14	250	250	chlorides in groundwater can be naturally occurring in deep aquifers or caused by pollution from brine, or industrial or domestic wastes
Sulfate	No	5.91	250	250	naturally occurring
<b>Inorganic Contaminants State Regulated</b>					
Turbidity (NTU)	No	.88	1	1	naturally occurring
Sodium (MG/L)	No	29.5*	N / A	N / A	erosion of natural deposits and pH adjustment
<p>* A recommended level of concern for those on diets with daily sodium intake restrictions.            This "Level Detected" was the highest level detected in one of many samples taken throughout the water system in 2007.</p>					
Hardness (MG/L)	No	46	N / A	N / A	naturally occurring soft water range is 0-75 MG/L
Conductivity (uMhos/cm)	No	242	700	700	naturally occurring
Color (Color Units)	No	< 5	15	15	naturally occurring
<b>Disinfection By-Product Compounds – EPA Regulated</b>					
Total Trihalomethanes* (TTHM) (Ug/L)	No	.9 - 14.9	60	80	chlorination by-product caused by the reaction of chlorine with organic matter

\* The sum of the concentration in milligrams per liter of the trihalomethane compounds (trichloromethane [chloroform], dibromochloromethane, bromodichloromethane and tribromomethane [bromoform]), rounded to two significant figures.

# Water Conservation & Protection *Be Water Wise!*

*Only 1% of the earth's water is available for drinking water. Let's protect and conserve our water today!*

The average daily consumption of water for Camas in 2007 was 3.76 millions of gallons per day (mgd). During our peak month in July, we consumed 6.06 mgd (our peak consumption day was 7.44 mgd on July 10th). Most of this increase is due to irrigation demand.

We are once again asking for your help to reduce the amount of water wasted this year by implementing a voluntary odd/even lawn watering program for residential customers. Water on odd days if your house number ends in an odd number, and even days if it ends in an even number.

## **Tips for Conserving and Protecting Water Resources**

- Fix leaks inside and outside, including old leaky faucets, toilets, hoses and sprinkler systems.
- Choose water saving fixtures and appliances, such as high-efficiency clothes washers and water-efficient dishwashers, which use 30% less water than traditional machines.
- Sweep driveways, sidewalks and porches rather than hosing to not only conserve water, but to avoid runoff.
- Water late at night or early in the morning (10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m.). An inch of water per week is enough to keep lawns green. Amend your soil, which allows the soil to more easily absorb water.

For more water saving ideas see our newsletters, news releases, and printed material available at City Hall, the Operations Center, or website at: [ci.camas.wa.us/services/utilities/uswater.htm](http://ci.camas.wa.us/services/utilities/uswater.htm), and [ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/ws/wtrcnsv.html](http://ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/ws/wtrcnsv.html).

Please report possible water pollution (illicit discharge) to the City of Camas at 360-817-1561, or the Department of Ecology Southwest Regional Office at 360-407-6300.

## **Irrigation Systems**

Washington State Law requires every irrigation system to have a backflow device installed and inspected annually by a certified backflow tester to ensure it is working properly. Backflow devices are important because they prevent irrigation pipe contaminants from backing up into our community's drinking water supply. A list of certified backflow testers can be obtained from the City of Camas Building Department, or at [www.ci.camas.wa.us/services/utilities/irrigation](http://www.ci.camas.wa.us/services/utilities/irrigation).



The surface water sources, Boulder and Jones Creeks are located on the south side of Larch Mountain northeast of Camas.

## Our Water System

The City of Camas has multiple water sources that include surface and groundwater. The surface water sources, Boulder and Jones Creeks are located on the south side of Larch Mountain northeast of Camas. This surface water is disinfected, and then filtered at the Water Filtration Plant located near Lacamas Lake before it enters the distribution system. The groundwater sources include eight wells near the Washougal River and one well in Grass Valley. All water sources are treated with chlorine for disinfection, fluoride for good dental health, and sodium hydroxide to reduce the corrosion of copper piping to meet state and EPA standards. Water pressure and fire flows are maintained throughout the service area with six distribution reservoirs, seven pumping stations, and over 137.5 miles of pipeline.

## Water Quality Monitoring

The City of Camas routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. Field and laboratory analyses include tests for bacteria, as well as chemical, and physical indicators. Reports are submitted monthly to the Department of Health to show that your water meets all drinking water standards. Should there ever be a public health concern, you would be notified immediately.

## IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

All 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 the water poses a health risk. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people, such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy; people who have undergone organ transplants; people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders; some elderly; and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on the appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

### HOW TO CONTACT US:

Water Department Maintenance	817-1567
Operations Center	817-1563
Billing (Finance) Department	834-2462
Finance Department Location	616 NE Fourth Avenue, Camas, WA 98607
Emergency After Hours/Holiday	737-0592
City of Camas Website	<a href="http://www.ci.camass.wa.us">www.ci.camass.wa.us</a>

### Attention Non-English Speaking Customers

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it or speak with someone who can translate it for you.

#### Russian:

В этом сообщении содержится важная информация о воде, которую вы пьёте. Попросите кого-нибудь перевести для вас это сообщение или поговорите с человеком, который понимает его содержание.

#### Spanish:

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

# 2007 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT



616 NE Fourth Avenue  
Camas, WA 98607

BULK RATE  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
CAMAS, WA  
PERMIT #21

**Postal Customer**  
**Camas, Washington 98607**