

Message from the Chair
Summer 2007



Securing our Future Water Supply

A sufficient, reliable water supply is an essential component of our region's infrastructure. Our region's economy depends on it. In a region known for rainfall, it's tempting to assume that we always will have as much water as we want, but that would be a mistake.

Our region has experienced dramatic growth in the past two decades, particularly in East and South King County. The trend is expected to continue with over 1.6 million new people and 1.1 million new jobs projected for the Puget Sound area by 2040. Climate change and the need to dedicate water for the restoration of salmon habitat also place increasing demands on this precious resource.

Together, the population and environmental challenges demonstrate that our historical sources of water supply are insufficient to keep up with the region's growing needs. Transportation challenges facing this region serve as a powerful reminder that early planning and timely action is necessary to avoid a crisis.

The Cascade Water Alliance was formed in 1999 when member jurisdictions recognized that action needed to be taken to ensure that the region does not run out of water or that the water supply becomes too expensive or unreliable. Today Cascade supplies water to almost half the residential and commercial users in King County outside the City of Seattle.

Together, our eight Members -- Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond, Issaquah, Tukwila, Sammamish Plateau, Skyway, and Covington – are building the first new regional water supply system and water source in decades.

Construction begins later this year on a pipeline connecting the Tacoma supply system to our service district that will deliver 10 million gallons of water per day to our Members by 2010. By 2024, we anticipate an expanded system will be delivering water from multiple sources including Seattle, Tacoma, and Lake Tapps.

We don't know with certainty what our water future looks like, or how radically it will be impacted by climate change. But we do know we can't wait any longer to develop new water sources and strategies to ensure sufficient supply, protect against shortages due to global warming, support a growing population and economy and preserve our environmental heritage for future generations.

I invite you to learn more about Cascade and how we're taking the next important steps in securing our water future. Explore our new website to find conservation tips, consumer information, water supply, meetings details, links, and more. Sign up for Cascade's new e-Newsletter to receive updated news and information throughout the year. Give us your feedback and ideas.

On behalf of Cascade's Board of Directors and Members, thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David S. ...", is positioned above the typed name of the Chair.

Chair, Cascade Water Alliance
Mayor, City of Bellevue