



Ten Year Progress Report

Letter from the Chair

By Lloyd Warren

Chair, Cascade Water Alliance Board of Directors

Commissioner, Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Cascade Water Alliance. Throughout the 1990s the region looked at various ways to manage our future water supply, and it was in 1999 that eight East and South King County jurisdictions formed Cascade. Their mission for the organization 10 years ago is the same mission we have today: to meet current and future needs of our members in a cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner. As we enter our 10th year of operation we can celebrate significant progress toward that goal.

Regional Cooperation

Seattle, Tacoma and Cascade are working together on short and long term water supply issues. Last year, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) agreed to a new contract with Cascade for additional water that will bridge Cascade through to the time when Lake Tapps comes online (no sooner than the mid 2020s). In the long term, our three systems will offer security and redundancy of service in times of emergency or drought, like a power grid that is flexible to geographic need.

New Water Supply for the Region

The region will eventually need new water. Lake Tapps was not on our mind when we formed Cascade in 1999, but when the Lake Tapps community ranked 'a water utility' among the top choices for a new lake owner (after Puget Sound Energy), we thought there might be a mutual benefit. There certainly was, and 10 years later, the sale of Lake Tapps to Cascade will soon be finalized. For Cascade, Lake Tapps becomes the centerpiece for future water supply. For the community, a decade of uncertainty around the future of Lake Tapps is over. Cascade will manage Lake Tapps for people, fish and water supply.

Water for today...
and tomorrow



Long Term Planning

This month Cascade kicks off an inclusive, extensive planning process that will result in the six-year update to our Transmission and Supply Plan (TSP). The planning process will examine members' projected water demands and determine the most efficient and effective way to meet their need. A significant part of the planning process involves community outreach. Watch for more information about how you can be involved.

Conservation

Cascade members know we can't only rely on conservation to meet future needs, but conservation efforts today mean less need for water tomorrow. With continued uncertainty about climate change, the more we can learn to save, the more secure our water supply will be in the future. See our additional Cascade conservation tips in this issue or online at cascadewater.org.

New CEO

We could not be more pleased about introducing Chuck Clarke as Cascade's new CEO. Chuck is well known and respected for his experience and leadership in water related issues and his experience heading the state's Department of Ecology, heading EPA locally and most recently serving as head of Seattle Public Utilities. He is the right choice to lead Cascade into the future. Chuck came on board in January, relieving Ed Oberg who stepped in as CEO to help Cascade in January 2008. We are deeply grateful to Ed for the many talents and skills he brought to our growing organization.

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