

**REPORT TO REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024**

SUBJECT **Greater Victoria Drinking Water Quality – 2023 Annual Report**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To present the Greater Victoria Drinking Water Quality 2023 Annual Report to the Regional Water Supply Commission prior to submission to the provincial regulator.

BACKGROUND

The Capital Regional District (CRD) undertakes a comprehensive water quality monitoring program as part of its multi-barrier approach to provide a safe drinking water supply to the region. The Water Quality Monitoring Program reports water trends on a regular basis to the Regional Water Supply Commission, along with a comprehensive annual report for each calendar year. The Greater Victoria Drinking Water Quality 2023 Annual Report is attached as Appendix A. Water suppliers in BC are responsible for monitoring and providing an annual report to the provincial regulator (i.e., Island Health). To assist in meeting these responsibilities, the CRD has prepared this report, which will be distributed to Island Health and all municipal water purveyors and posted on the CRD website.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Regional Water Supply Commission recommends to the CRD Board:
That the Greater Victoria Drinking Water Quality 2023 Annual Report be approved.

Alternative 2

That the Regional Water Supply Commission direct staff to provide further information.

IMPLICATIONS

Environmental & Climate Implications

The report indicates that our source water remains in good condition and there is excellent drinking water quality in all system components of the Greater Victoria Drinking Water System. The system is monitored for physical, chemical, and biological water quality parameters. All trends are stable and indicate good conditions overall. 2023 brought a few unexpected operational challenges with potential significant water quality impacts. In September, a Main #4 leak on the Saanich Peninsula was detected that required an immediate and complex repair within a short time window. The repair was successfully completed without any water quality adverse events. In October, CRD staff detected roof leaks at the CRD Mount Tolmie Supply Storage Reservoir. Short-term leak repairs were completed and work is ongoing for a long-term rehabilitation of this facility. Water quality monitoring has ensured that the drinking water quality was never compromised throughout these procedures.

Monitoring results indicate the CRD continues to meet guidelines for maintaining an unfiltered source water supply. Further monitoring within the distribution systems also indicates a good

balance between managing bacterial growth and ensuring good water quality with low concentrations of disinfection byproducts. CRD staff are involved in several provincial and federal technical and scientific committees and are therefore able to continually apply leading edge expertise and technology in monitoring and decision-making for protecting the drinking water quality in the region.

Financial and Regulatory Implications

The reporting function is included within the overall budget for the Water Quality Monitoring Program. This task ensures there is adequate information to inform and work with Island Health officials, meet provincial regulatory requirements and federal guidelines, and ensure CRD staff have sufficient information to maintain proper oversight of the water supply system.

The CRD continues to provide compliance monitoring of the municipal systems within the region to deliver effective and efficient oversight for both monitoring and reporting of water quality within the overall distribution system. Responsibility for any issues that may arise in the municipal infrastructure remains with local governments.

Social Implications

The full disclosure of water quality monitoring data maintains public confidence that the CRD is effectively managing the regional drinking water supply. The data and reports are available online through the CRD public website. Staff respond directly to any customer concerns and questions, and work with CRD operational staff, municipal staff, small system operators and Island Health officials to ensure good communication and support for the overall system.

CONCLUSION

The Water Quality Monitoring Program remains an essential component in the delivery of a safe drinking water supply to the region. Monitoring results summarized in the Greater Victoria Drinking Water Quality 2023 Annual Report indicate good water quality overall, with the low risks associated with the unfiltered source water being well managed by the CRD’s multi-barrier approach. Once the report is approved by the Board, it will be submitted to Island Health, as per the requirement under the BC Drinking Water Protection Act.

RECOMMENDATION

The Regional Water Supply Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the Greater Victoria Drinking Water Quality 2023 Annual Report be approved.

Submitted by:	Glenn Harris, Ph.D., R.P.Bio., Senior Manager, Environmental Protection
Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P. Eng., Acting General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: Greater Victoria Drinking Water Quality – 2023 Annual Report