

**REPORT TO REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025**

---

**SUBJECT**     **Greater Victoria Drinking Water Quality – 2024 Annual Report**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

To present the Greater Victoria Drinking Water Quality 2024 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. This Water Quality Monitoring Program is directly linked to CRD's commitment to "safe drinking water and a resilient water supply" in the 2023-2026 Corporate Plan. The 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 2024 Annual Report (Appendix A) presents the most recent findings and analysis. 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, all municipal water suppliers and posted on the CRD website.

**ALTERNATIVES**

*Alternative 1*

The Regional Water Supply Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:  
That the Greater Victoria Drinking Water Quality 2024 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 good 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. Overall, trends are relatively stable and indicate good conditions; however, there were three events of note in 2024:

- For the second time since 2017, Sooke Lake Reservoir was affected by a total coliform bacteria event in the summer. Test results indicated that during the period of highest bacterial

load in raw water, short-term bacterial breakthroughs (the treatment plant failed to inactivate all indicator bacteria) occurred on seven days during peak water demand periods. The breakthroughs were limited to a few morning hours, in low concentrations and only immediately downstream of the Goldstream Water Treatment Plant (GWTP) and prior to the first customer. Working together with Island Health, the risk to public health was assessed as low throughout this event and no public advisory was required. The cause and mechanism of these total coliform events remains unclear and will be studied further.

- On September 27, a turbidity event occurred at the Sooke Water Treatment Plant. The event was caused by a break in Main #15, the sole supply main for raw water to the Sooke plant. A fallen tree was the cause for the main break. The Sooke system was supplied with treated water from storage reservoirs while the complex repair was successfully completed without water quality impacts to customers.
- Peak watering demands in early summer caused several turbidity exceedances at the GWTP. Staff are taking measures to manage these events through an annual springtime main flushing program and working with communities and industry sectors to reduce peak outdoor watering demands.

Monitoring results indicate the CRD continues to meet guidelines for maintaining an unfiltered source water supply. Further monitoring within the distribution system indicates a good balance between managing bacterial growth and ensuring good water quality with low concentrations of disinfection byproducts.

#### *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 or 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 2024 Annual Report indicate that overall water quality was good and has been effectively managed through 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 2024 Annual Report be approved.

Submitted by:	Peter Kickham, M.E.T., R.P.Bio., Acting Senior Manager, Environmental Protection
Concurrence:	Russ Smith, Acting General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Alicia Fraser, P. Eng., General Manager, Integrated Water Services
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

## **ATTACHMENT**

Appendix A: Greater Victoria Drinking Water Quality – 2024 Annual Report