

DONALA WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT

(719) 488-3603

www.donalawater.org

SEPTEMBER 2019

Air Force Academy Well Water Concerns

Over the course of the last several weeks, it has been reported that the wells on the grounds of the USAFA have tested positive for Perfluorinated Compounds (PFC's). This is the same chemical that was discovered in the drinking water in Widefield, Security and Fountain in 2016. The source of this chemical is likely from fire fighting exercises on the Academy grounds during the 1970's and 1980's. This chemical has been found in wells located on, and around, the USAFA. In July of 2016 the District had its well water tested for PFC's and the tests came back "not detected" for PFC's. These tests examined our sample down to a parts per trillion level. The wells on the USAFA are relatively shallow, alluvial, wells (200'-300' deep). Contrast that with the District's wells which average between 1,500'-2,200' deep and draw water from water bearing sandstone. These two differing aquifers are not hydrologically connected and the chance of any contamination reaching the District's wells are highly unlikely. Most of the drinking water at the USAFA is water provided by Colorado Springs and not their wells. Please contact us if you have any concerns.

Water Line Replacement Update

Beers Construction has completed the water line installation and is finishing up the service line replacements. The construction is not considered complete as there is still some finish work to be accomplished. Road patches and landscape rehab will continue until all areas disrupted by the project are restored. Please continue to use caution when driving in the area. Donala staff would like to extend our gratitude in your patience during the construction.

Irrigation Restrictions End after Labor Day

The three day per week watering restrictions end each year after Labor Day. While the limits are removed until next Spring, we encourage you to maintain a voluntary watering schedule. Existing landscapes have gotten by with three days of water per week all summer and watering more often than three days a week, during September, will not contribute to plant health. Even though early Fall has some of the hottest days of the year, the days are becoming shorter, so landscape water requirements are less than in June, July and August. Remember that less frequent watering results in more drought tolerant root systems, so please continue to irrigate on a three day per week basis this fall. Resist the temptation to water whenever just because the restrictions are lifted and help to continue our conservation efforts.

1041 Permit with Pueblo County

After 4 years and 10 months we are elated to announce that we have received our 1041 Permit with Pueblo County. The permit allows us to store our Willow Creek Ranch water in the Pueblo Reservoir and allows us to use the Southern Delivery System to move our water up from Pueblo Reservoir. This is an indefinite Permit. This action has been long in coming and coupled with the long-term storage contract (40 years) we have with the Bureau of Reclamation, we are now in a position to start discussions with CSU on a long-term service agreement to deliver our Willow Creek Ranch water under a long term agreement.

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Be Aware of FOG

Fall is just around the corner and this is when most wastewater treatment facilities encounter the largest influx of Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG). FOG consists of fat from animal meats, shortening, butter, bacon grease, food scraps, salad dressings and marinades; just to name a few. Anything that has fat, oil or grease in it is a culprit.

Last year, the Upper Monument Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility (your waste treatment plant) experienced a huge amount of FOG during the holiday season. This meant special, expensive, treatment to get the facility back under control. This gets expensive in the form of chemicals and manpower. The second problem to us, and probably foremost to you, is that your own household sewer lines can get clogged with that same FOG. What customers send down the drain doesn't always make it to our treatment facility. Some of that same FOG stays in household wastewater lines and starts coating your lines (much like cholesterol in our arteries). Hot soapy water does not clean out those lines. As that FOG builds up, your wastewater lines clog up more and more. Below is a list of Do's and Don'ts:

- Don't put anything with fat, oil or grease down the drain.
- Before rinsing out pans, wipe out the grease first with a paper towel. Then rinse with cold water so the residual grease will flush as it is and not congeal to the sides of your pipes.
- Be careful using chemicals to clear grease clogs as they can damage your plumbing. Make sure you know what kind of piping you have prior to pouring chemicals down the drain.

Other culprits are dairy products such as old milk, buttermilk, yogurt and sour cream. Not only is the fat content a problem, but dairy products change the Ph balance in the waste treatment plant which essentially kills off the good bacteria used to treat waste. When this happens, it is virtually impossible to bring back the bacteria in the colder temperatures of Fall, Winter and Spring.

Gleneagle Golf Course Redevelopment

El Paso County Commissioners have approved the final 12 lots for the re-development of the former Gleneagle Golf Course. Infrastructure placement is currently underway, and the lots are being sold. Pate Construction, who is the contractor selected by G&S Development, estimates that the site should be fully developed within 90 days, weather permitting. Once this is complete, building may commence.

Your General Manager,

Kip Caterson

