

OCTOBER 2023

PINERY PIPELINE



From your Board of Directors

“Quality Water For Life”

My family has enjoyed the wonderful quality of life here in the Pinery area for over 40 years. Many elements of the environment contribute to that quality of life – the beauty of the area, the wildlife, the relative solitude, good neighbors. Even something as basic as a reliable water supply adds value.

The Vision Statement of the Pinery Water District is “*Quality Water for Life*”. While I worked for the District, I was able to witness firsthand the personal efforts and the technology available that makes that vision continually possible.

While we each may have an opinion on what comprises quality water, safe drinking water includes much more than just an opinion. Detailed guidelines exist that set the standards for safe drinking water, and the treatments involved in achieving those standards are precise and continual, as is the monitoring of the treatment results. Fortunately for us, Pinery’s ideal geographical location also lends a helping hand in delivering quality water. Following are some interesting facts and further details about the Pinery’s water:

1. The Environmental Protection Agency established the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1974. The SDWA sets standards for drinking water quality and oversees water supplies, like the Pinery Water and Wastewater District, to ensure those standards are met.
2. More information about the Safe Drinking Water Act can be found at this link. <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/overview-safe-drinking-water-act>
3. There are 1) primary standards – contaminants that could pose a risk to public health and safety, and 2) Secondary standards – non-enforceable guidelines for contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects or aesthetic effects (i.e. scaling of dishes, taste, odor, etc.)
4. Pinery WSD has three distinct water supplies: 1) Denver Basin wells (800 to 1,700 ft deep), 2) Cherry Creek Alluvial wells (60-90 ft deep) and WISE water comprised of water from the South Platte River and lakes and streams in the Rocky Mountains.
5. Pinery is the furthest upstream water provider on Cherry Creek, which means our water supply is pristine by Urban Area standards. There are no wastewater dischargers upstream of the Pinery.
6. The treatment required by the Pinery is minimal due to the water’s great quality when extracted from the Creek.
7. Every year the Pinery WSD publishes the Consumer Confidence Report. In this document, customers can easily see how Pinery WSD water matches up to the SDWA regulations.
8. The Consumer Confidence Report can be found on the Pinery WSD website at <https://pinerywater.com/water-quality/>

We are indeed fortunate to enjoy a reliable supply of water for the foreseeable future, and to have technicians on duty and facilities in place to guarantee its ongoing quality. If you have specific questions or concerns about water quality, please feel free to contact the District office.



Rod Bergholm
Director,
Pinery Water and Wastewater District

Please join us at our District Office for our monthly held Board Meetings at 6:00pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Upcoming Board Meetings will be held at 6:00pm on **Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023** and **Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023**

ITS TIME TO BLOW OUT THOSE SPRINKLERS

Don't let these warm fall days fool you. Our first frost is right around the corner. As you are doing your last lawn maintenance for the year and putting all your gardening tools away, it is time to think about winterizing your sprinkler system. When the frost level reaches the below depth of the irrigation system, winterizing your system can help prevent damage from freezing and ward off costly repairs in the spring. Below are some tips from Rain Bird Irrigation Manufacturing Company to help you winterize your system.

1. Insulate your assets:

- Shut off the water that supplies your irrigation system. You need to protect your main shut off valve for your irrigation system from the freezing temperatures. You can protect it from freezing by wrapping it with insulation (insulation can be found at any home supply store). If you do not have a main shut off valve for your irrigation system, you may want to consider installing one as a preventative measure. You also want to make sure any above ground pipes are insulated as well.

2. Stay in control:

- If you have an automatic irrigation system you will need to shut down the controller (timer). Most controllers have a rain mode which will shut off the signals to the valves and keep all your programmed information. If your controller also activates a pump for your system, make sure you disconnect those wires so that you don't cause overheating damage. An alternative to the rain mode is to shut off the power to the controller. If you do this, you will have to reprogram all settings in the spring.

3. Drain the pipes:

- Now you need to remove all the water from your pipes so that it won't freeze, expand, and break your pipes. There are a couple different ways that this can be done. However, since there could be a safety risk, we recommend you contact a local irrigation specialist.

4. Protect your valves and backflow preventers:

- If you have any valves or a backflow preventer that is above ground, make sure that you insulate them just like the pipes and main shut off. Be sure not to block the air vents and drain the outlets on the backflow preventer.

(For more information go to <https://www.rainbird.com/homeowners/how-do-i-winterize-my-irrigation-system> and <https://www.hunterindustries.com/winterizing-your-irrigation-system/>)

WATER METER MAINTENANCE

In 2023 the District finished upgrading all customer meters to cellular read technology. This technology allows customers to monitor their water usage each day, to make adjustments if necessary and to prevent catastrophic leaks through alerts from the EyeOnWater platform. As an added benefit, staff can efficiently and remotely pull meter reads each month to generate bills.

Since this technology is used with cellular networks, it must have unobstructed access to the cellular network, meaning nothing can cover the meter pit/lid. Staff need ready access to the meter cover for *meter reading and maintenance*. Please, no sod, landscaping material, concrete, or asphalt *shall* cover the meter lid. The District requests that no shrubbery, rock gardens or trees be planted within 10 feet of the meter. If shrubs or trees are near the meter pit, consider relocating them before they mature. The District is not responsible for replacing them in the event access to a meter pit is needed. Refer to the photos in this post for examples of well-maintained and poorly maintained meter pit lids.



Picture from:

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/evergreenmetro/news/winterizing-your-sprinkler-system>



The above photo is a sprinkler system being blown out. <https://sabhomes.com/winterizing-sprinkler-system/>

Poorly maintained meter pit access



Photo courtesy of PWWD staff

Well maintained meter pit access



Photo courtesy of PWWD staff

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