



## Listening and learning from our first summer on Lake Tapps

Message from the CEO

September 23rd 2010

Cascade is finishing its first summer of operating Lake Tapps – and quite a summer it has been!

Lake Tapps is not only important to Cascade and its residents from Bellevue to Tukwila and Sammamish to Covington, but also to Auburn, Bonney Lake, Buckley and Sumner. Why? Because this magnificent recreational and residential lake is also an eventual municipal water source for Cascade, its members and the four cities. Should we need to use it for water decades from now, there will be clean, safe reliable water in everyone's tap for years to come.



Chuck Clarke, CEO

As the new owners, we want to make sure it's the safest and healthiest lake it can be. It was full and quite beautiful this summer.

### **Milfoil treatment**

Through our outreach efforts, residents let us know their top priority was addressing the milfoil in the lake. We had several public meetings, adopted a plan and in late August began efforts to eradicate it. Treatments in September and October will complete this year's effort. Although results won't be visible right away, there will be a noticeable difference next year, when additional treatments will be made. This is the first of a five year program.

### **Structural inspection, water levels**

To double check the status of facilities that Cascade assumed from Puget Sound Energy, we took all the water out of the flume (which feeds water to the lake) and looked at all the structures in the system. This had not been done for several years so it was a prudent business and operations decision to get a good look at the facilities. We will have some work to do to ensure they are in top operating condition for the future.

Water for today...  
and tomorrow



During this process, we projected the impact the outage would have on lake levels as we planned the work and tracked lake levels on a daily basis since the outage began. The lake elevation has gone down an average of .24 inches per day. At this rate, the lake will remain above minimum recreation level (541.50 feet) until at least October. This is consistent with the prediction Cascade made when scheduling the outage and why the outage began in late August rather than earlier in the month. Cascade is not planning to release water to lower the lake level before November.

We will be discussing the outage progress and impact on lake levels with the Lake Tapps Community Council and will get information out to the lake residents, through the LTCC.



Cascade drains the water from the flume this summer to inspect structures in the system

### **Public safety, enforcement**

We heard from neighbors, too, that the very popular lake is attracting lots of people who enjoyed Lake Tapps from Cascade's dikes. This is simply not acceptable. However, enforcement is difficult as the budget-strapped Pierce County Sheriff's Office sends its available troops to do their best, but with limited officers and a huge county, 24 hour enforcement is a challenge. Cascade will be coming to the community to seek ideas as to how best to ensure the lake continues as a regional resource, but that it is also kept healthy, clean and safe. Cascade will be working on a plan with other partners in the area and the community and will hopefully have a safe lake plan in place in time for next summer!

### **Healthy Lake Outreach Efforts**

We're also working with the Lake Tapps community to determine what best practices might be used for yard and lawn care, as it affects the lake. Cascade is developing a two to three year plan of information, education and outreach for the lake and its users, including residents and non-residents who come to enjoy the lake.

*Chuck Clarke, CEO*

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