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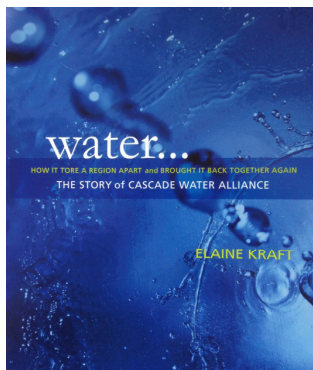
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Cascade Water Alliance Publishes A Chronicle of its History

Bellevue WA - Cascade Water Alliance, on its 17th birthday, has published a book about its history entitled ***WaterHow it Tore a Region Apart and Brought it Back Together Again***. It is the story of Cascade, its partnerships and collaborations throughout the region.



The book is an historical perspective over the fight for water as a way to control the destiny of the Eastside cities that wanted a voice and a vote in how their communities grew. It includes numerous interviews with current and past leaders who were influential in the region and in water and infrastructure planning for the future. The book contains documents, photos and other mementos of the decades-long water struggles. It is written by Elaine Kraft, Cascade's Intergovernmental and Communications Director, who has been with Cascade since 2008.

"Cascade has crammed a lot of history into its 17 years," said Chuck Clarke, Cascade CEO. "This history captures much of what has happened in the region, and shows how politics can be put aside for the greater good with results that are pretty incredible. It's a much better way to get things done – especially for essential public services and critical infrastructure improvements – than being territorial and provincial. What it means to our customers is that they have certainty that they will have water for the next century as a direct result of cooperation."

The book begins in the mid-1980s as growth was exploding in the suburbs and Seattle was concerned that there might not be enough water for its residents *and* the growing Eastside. But how should this growth be dealt with? Water wars lasting two decades resulted from this question. The outcome was Cascade Water Alliance, a municipal corporation now made up of member cities Bellevue, Kirkland, Issaquah, Redmond and Tukwila, and Sammamish Plateau Water and the Skyway Water and Sewer District. Cascade gets its drinking water from Seattle

today and also owns Lake Tapps in East Pierce County for future water supply.

“The broader planning partnerships Cascade has with Seattle, Tacoma and Everett for eventual regional water planning and supply that is the remarkable result of this organization,” Clarke added. “The book points out how and why, after fighting over water for decades, the region’s leaders came together to plan for water for the future. This is more important today than ever.”

Once Cascade purchased Lake Tapps in Pierce County, and with water usage was down, regional water suppliers came together to ensure every last drop of available water was used before additional sources like Lake Tapps were developed. The result? Unprecedented regional planning without crises or mandates. Today, Cascade, Seattle, Everett and Tacoma are engaged in an unique resiliency project aimed at ensuring residents in the Central Puget Sound Region will have water if and when there are earthquakes, water quality issues, drought or climate change.

“We have come a long way from fighting over water to ensuring it is available into the next century,” Clarke notes. “It’s because of our collaboration, cooperation, planning and stewardship over a precious resource – and essential public service – that the region will have water.”

“Cascade has been able to make effective business decisions for our customers as a result of its unique lean and nimble operating premise allowing it to quickly adapt to changing conditions,” said Cascade Chair Fred Butler, Issaquah Mayor. “This book not only chronicles wise regional decisions made along the way but also serves to showcase the governance model that made Cascades an example of efficiency and effectiveness. But for our residents, it’s a reminder that their water will be there every time they turn on the tap, now and well into the next century.” The book is available through Cascade Water Alliance and will be available as an e-book.

For more information on Cascade Water Alliance, visit www.cascadewater.org.