



2020 National Drinking Water Week Award

The **Lifetime Achievement** award is presented to Chuck Clarke, retired Chief Executive Officer; Cascade Water Alliance, in recognition of his hard work and dedication in providing safe and reliable drinking water.

Chuck was nominated by Ray Hoffman, who wrote, for almost 50 years, Chuck managed and directed water related agencies, issues and staff in all levels of local, state, and federal agencies. He leaves a legacy of innovation, a culture of getting things done, and mentoring dozens of leaders who now head major water systems in the region. His influence led to new key water policies, and his leadership on and stewardship of our water resources furthered positive water-related issues at the state and federal level.

Chuck spent more than a decade as CEO of Cascade Water Alliance, a unique municipal corporation made up of five cities and two water and sewer districts that provides safe, clean, reliable water to almost 400,000 residents and 20,000 business in East and South King County. The organization owns and maintains Lake Tapps, a future municipal water source. During this time, he was diligent to meet the needs of, and coalesced, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Muckleshoot Indians, the cities of Auburn, Bonney Lake, Buckley, and Sumner as well as 1,700 homeowners around Lake Tapps to create and agree to a unique 50-year water right that allows eventual development of the first new water supply source approved in years.

Critical policy efforts led by Chuck created two new laws. The first is a new Washington State joint municipal utilities' services authority (JMUSA) that allows utilities to come together to provide water services more efficiently and effectively. The second established a successful response to two state

Supreme Court decisions regarding fire protection, by passing a new law that ensured legal, liability and financial protections for water districts and cities that provide fire related services.

In his capacity at Cascade and Seattle, Chuck chaired the Central Puget Sound Water Supply Forum, a consortium of Seattle, Tacoma, Everett and Cascade to plan the region's water future, most recently to ensure regional water supply resiliency following devastating events like earthquake or water quality challenges. Prior to serving at Cascade, Chuck was director of SPU for eight years, where he directed services for more than 1.3 million people, oversaw 1,400 employees and managed a budget of more than \$750 million.

He was Regional X Administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency leading Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho environmental issues for six years, which included watershed-based approaches to environmental solutions, regulatory reform and federal governmental accountability. This was a presidential appointment position. Chuck also served as agency secretary for the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and was the Director of the the Washington State Department of Community Development and the Washington State Departments of Ecology.

He served on the board of Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) and was recently elected to serve as a Woodinville Water District Commissioner Position 4. Chuck holds a degree in biology from Pacific Lutheran University.

Congratulations from all of us at the Office of Drinking Water!

May 4, 2020

