

# Water Works



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## From Mary Massad, Manager/CEO



Mary Massad,  
Manager/CEO

With winter just around the corner, we are striving to complete as many projects as possible before the snow. Construction continues on all fronts for the Southwest Pipeline Project.

Some of the progress includes the city of Killdeer, which was recently connected. The city of Dunn Center, followed by the cities of Dodge, Golden Valley and Halliday were recently switched over to receiving treated water from the OMND Water Treatment Plant (WTP). By the end of the year, west of Killdeer, Grassy Butte, and the North Fairfield service areas should also be receiving water from the OMND WTP.

In the last three months, the Project added 175 rural connections. The microtunneling for the supplemental intake at Renner Bay is more than halfway complete. Additionally, construction is moving forward with 13 more contracts.

There has been notable progress here at SWA - connecting new customers, completing construction and continuing to secure easements. We must also recognize the increased costs to provide water services. And even though we are state owned, the water rates must be sufficient to pay the costs needed to provide quality drinking water. These costs include labor, electricity, chemicals, maintenance and repairs. So, SWA's Board is reviewing the rates for 2016 to ensure they are kept as low as possible while still maintaining our quality water service and covering costs.

SWA is pleased to have received a Water Quality Award from North Dakota's Department of Health and Center for Disease Control. And while we are honored to be recognized for our water's quality, please know we remain dedicated to providing quality water 365 days a year, 24/7 to all of the people currently being served by SWA. SWA also recognizes, however, the many who are still waiting to be connected to the Southwest Pipeline Project. All of which is why we remain dedicated to acquiring the necessary funding to help those who wait to also be connected to quality water.



## Welcome Killdeer!

Southwest Water Authority is pleased to announce the city of Killdeer in Dunn County is now connected to the Southwest Pipeline Project.

## Welcome New Customers!!

If you are a new customer to us... "Welcome!" We are happy to serve you and hope you enjoy our quality, award-winning, water. Once water is available, you will receive a "Welcome" packet from us in the mail. The packet includes an official notification that you are ready to be connected to our water system. Be sure to read the information provided in the packet to avoid any delays in receiving SWA's quality water. Please contact our Customer Service Department if you need any assistance.

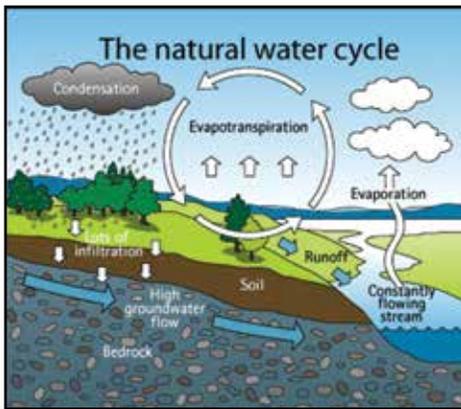


## Don't Turn it On Yourself!

It's important to know you should never try to turn on a new SWA water connection on your own. Not only is it illegal, it's also unsafe! Any new service location must have its water turned on by a Southwest Water Authority employee. Please call our office at 701-225-0241 at least 3 days in advance to schedule activation of your new connection.



## Water funding naturally comes full circle



The “hydrologic cycle” sounds, well, complex. But actually it is an easy concept to understand. Better known as the **water cycle** — it is the continuous process that takes water from lakes and oceans to nourish the Earth, and then into the atmosphere and back again.

This natural cycle constantly replenishes us through the evaporation of water and the countless other strategies Mother Nature employs to purify water through a perpetual rhythm of recycling and re-use. Just consider Mother Nature’s toolkit: rivers, creeks, clouds, snow, photosynthesis, groundwater storage and condensation to name a few. It’s nothing short of amazing.

Yet it is an ever-growing challenge for us humans to keep pace with that abundant — no, literally infinite — supply chain. Still, it is often left to human hands to make sure

the natural water cycle matches up with the needs of communities for high-quality supplies for drinking and other uses.

Similar to the natural water cycle supply, funding for construction and ongoing expansion of the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) was designed to follow a cycle as well. Funding comes from the State’s Resources Trust Fund (RTF). Unlike traditional funding, however, the way the customers repay the state is via a percentage of their monthly water bills.

The visionary leaders in the SWPP’s early days could never have imagined the economic boom that ND would see — especially in the southwest. They did recognize, however, that a project of such magnitude could survive only with state-ownership and funding, replenishing itself through a structure returned finances full-cycle to its ultimate users.

Excluding grants, the Project’s funding was set up to be repaid, incrementally by each and every person benefitting from the reliable flow of quality water. That’s why every ratepayer pays into the Resources Trust Fund (RTF) — with the vast percentage of those dollars applied directly to their benefit, and to the benefit of future users through the SWPP and parallel natural resource projects.

Like the water cycle itself, the SWPP’s funding comes full circle.



**Our Vision:**  
**People and Business**  
**Succeeding with**  
**Quality Water**

**Our Mission:**  
**Quality Water for**  
**Southwest**  
**North Dakota**

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## How Do We Make Your Water Safe to Drink?



Water providers typically use either chlorine or chloramines to improve the quality of water provided to customers. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), chloramines are a chlorine/ammonia combination that

provide better protection against bacterial regrowth in water systems; it can be toxic to fish and other water life, however, and proves problematic for aquarium owners.

The EPA advises that chloramines, like chlorine, effectively control biofilm — slime formed by bacterial growth, which coats and corrodes pipes, which also can harbor dangerous concentrations of coliform bacteria. Chloramines, however, tend not to react with organic compounds in water, and consumers generally express fewer complaints about the chemical taste and odor of treated water.

Chloramines — essentially a chemical compound made by reacting ammonia with the active ingredient in chlorine bleach — are a weaker germicide than chlorine. It is, however, more stable, and it has become the choice of most U.S. public water systems.

Importantly, the EPA emphasizes that neither chloramines nor chlorine pose health concerns to humans at the levels used for drinking water disinfection. Both, however, can harm fish and amphibians at these minimal levels. Bottom line, have confidence in your water supply, but talk with your veterinarian about concerns you might have for aquatic life. And should you have medical concerns, be sure to consult your health provider (particularly to account for any adjustments that may be necessary for dialysis patients).

To learn more about Chloramines, please visit [SWwater.com](http://SWwater.com).

*Note: Be sure to consult your health provider (particularly to account for any adjustments that may be necessary for dialysis patients). Also if you have a fish tank or pet amphibian, you should talk with your veterinarian.*

## SWA earns the Water Fluoridation Quality Award

We are pleased to announce the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Department of Health recognized our water quality with the prestigious Water Fluoridation Quality Award.

## 16<sup>th</sup> Annual “Make a Splash”



More than 500 fifth-graders received a healthy dose of education about water at the 16th annual “Make a Splash” Water Festival in Dickinson. The Southwest Water Authority and the ND Water Commission’s

“Project WET” (Water Education for Teachers) coordinated the two-day event last month at the West River Ice Center in Dickinson.

The water education programs and services of Project WET are for North Dakota K-12 teachers, pre-service teachers, natural resource educators, and K-12 youth leaders. The programs promote awareness, appreciation, knowledge, and stewardship of North Dakota’s water resources. That is why Southwest Water Authority continues to be instrumental in providing an opportunity for fifth-graders to learn about our water through hands-on applications and water-related activities provided by Project WET.

## Want to Get Away?

We understand if there are some months in the winter you travel to somewhere a bit warmer. If that is something you like to do, it’s important to let us know. If you plan on being away for an extended period of time this winter, please call our Customer Service Department at 701-225-0241 or toll free

at 1-888-425-0241. We can help you make arrangements to pre-pay your monthly minimum bills, sign up for automatic payment plan or have your water turned off until you return. And equally important is, in case of an emergency, we need to be able to contact you. That’s why, if you’re going to be away, it is crucial to provide us with your new address, telephone number, and email of how we can reach you quickly.





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