

Hamilton Creek Metropolitan District

November 2003

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Water. Since mid-August the District has exclusively been using the new water source of surface water from Hamilton Creek. This water has met our high expectations of being of exceptional quality.

While the new water source does not have any sulfites that caused the “rotten egg” smell familiar with the old water source, the supply system and pipes in your house still have a coating from years of use. When the water sits for a period of time it can absorb some of the sulfites. Over time this will gradually be removed from the system.

The new water source meets all water quality requirements and has below detectable levels of fluoride. The long and costly process to connect the District to a new water source was to meet State of Colorado requirements for the level of fluoride in the water.

The new temporary water treatment facility of the District includes filtration equipment required for a surface water supply. The water supply is monitored when it enters the facility from the Creek and again prior to being entered into the supply system. Chlorine is added after the filtration process as required by the State of Colorado. The amount of chlorine used has been reduced due to the higher quality of the water supply. Based on the monitoring equipment, the water being taken from the Creek generally already meets water quality standards even before the filtration.

Water from the Creek is collected in an underground collection area of loose rock and filtering sand. Water is pumped from the collection area when the level in the water tank reaches a certain point. One of the problems that caused delays in activating the system turned out to be the infiltration area was being clogged with fine particles. An underground air system was included during the construction phase and it is being used to regularly clean the collection area resulting in the high quality water being supplied.

The snow pack last winter and the wet spring returned the Creek to levels needed to fully provide water from this source. Generally, all of the household needs for the residents in the District can be provided from this source year round. However, the possibility still remains that with excess outside water usage during the summer months the source may not be sufficient. Residents are encouraged to utilize natural landscaping to minimize any outside water usage to aid in using the higher quality water for our supply.

As the District goes through a full year of use of the new source there remain potential problems that may arise. While we know the Creek runs all winter, we do not know what effects the top surface freezing will have on the collection gallery. All surface water systems are subject to spring run off water quality problems. The District will use various methods to minimize these problems and is hopeful the surface water source can continue to be used during run off periods. It is likely the water will take on a yellowish color during run off, but this would have no effect on the safety or taste of the water.

The ground water from wells remains the back up source for the District, but due to the water quality issues, it will only be used when absolutely necessary.

Legal. The District was back in Court in mid-September for a hearing regarding a motion from the State of Colorado to fine the District \$10,000 for not completing the water repairs in the time frame agreed to with the State. The District had countered that the delays were beyond the control of the District. The Judge did not even hear the case as he ruled the State of Colorado had not followed required procedures in filing the motion. The State had not attempted to work with the District in resolving the claim for the fine and had not provided to the Court any documentation why they did not do this. In the opinion of the District, this is finally an example in our long history of court battles when common sense and logic finally prevailed.

The Judge indicated he had reached a conclusion on the January 2003 case between the District and Colorado Bondshares regarding paying for the water repairs and future interest. He said the written opinion would be available in the near future, but as of the end of October it still has not been released.

Snow Removal. The District will be again using Collard Excavating for snow removal on the roadways and driveways. While there was some initial interest from other snow removal providers at the end of last winter, no other provider choose to bid or offer removal service at a reasonable cost. A new alternate driveway removal option will also be offered this winter and is detailed below.

The District provides access plowing of driveways. Following snow removal on the roadways the driveways will be plowed to allow a vehicle to drive from the road onto the driveway. It is not a full plow of the driveway, but allows the resident to access the driveway to finish the snow removal. Snow removal by Collard Excavating is done with large front end loaders. Many driveways have limited snow storage areas. Some damage to the driveway surface and surrounding landscaping can occur.

Snow removal on your driveway will be based on the instructions used last year or any modifications the District was notified of this summer. Some residents choose to not have the driveway snow removal due to concerns regarding driveway and landscaping damage.

The District has made arrangements with Mario Zieba, a local maintenance person, to provide full driveway snow removal for residents who request this service. The approximate cost of full driveway snow removal is \$100 per month. The District will absorb half of this cost as part of the access plow service. Residents who are interested in the upgraded driveway snow plowing should contact the District. Based on the driveway being plowed, an exact cost of the service for the current winter will be provided. Mario would also be available to residents who would like to contract for walkway snow removal.

The contact to change your driveway plowing is Bob Polich, Administrator, (970) 668-5500 Ext 12, (800) 783-3026 Ext 12 or admin@hamiltoncreek.org.