



Only Tap Water **Delivers**SM

Quality — Value — Reliability

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON
LOCAL AND
REGIONAL WATER
ISSUES
PLEASE VISIT:**

- www.ci.hillsboro.or.us
- www.conserveh2o.org

Hillsboro Water—At your Service

The City of Hillsboro Water Department provides water service to over 23,000 homes and businesses in Hillsboro and also sells water to Cornelius, Gaston and the L.A. Water Co-op. Those service connections translate into about 85,000 people who depend on Hillsboro Water to provide them clean, safe drinking water 24 hours per day / 365 days a year.

Utilities Commission—Caring for Hillsboro's water resources:

Hillsboro's water utility is unique in that it is not controlled by City Council, but is led by appointed Hillsboro citizens who focus solely on water issues. Since its beginning in 1940, the Utilities Commission has remained true to its charge of efficient and effective water management and has propelled Hillsboro to a lead role in regional water resource planning.

Hillsboro delivers water and...

...Public Health protection

Hillsboro's water system allows us to drink from the local tap with a high assurance of safety. Filtration and a closed distribution system protects the water from naturally-occurring and manmade contaminants that can cause immediate or long-term health effects. Our line flushing program clears pipes of sediment that may cause water quality issues.

...Fire protection

One of a water system's primary purposes is fire suppression. Hillsboro Water attentively maintains its water system with care to ensure system valves and hydrants work properly and ample water is available at a suitable pressure for fighting fires throughout the City.



Only Tap Water Delivers

Hillsboro Water Department

...Support for the economy

For the same amount of money you pay for a 20 ounce bottled water at the market, you can fill a 20 ounce bottle with tap water once daily for 13 years!!

Hillsboro has been able to support growth and provide jobs for its residents by providing a safe and sustainable water supply. Businesses have been attracted to our community because of the adequate supply of clean water. Their local investments have been instrumental in changing Hillsboro from a farm county hub of the past to a thriving and diverse “hometown of the future” with enhanced neighborhoods, recreation and economic opportunities for its residents.

...Overall quality of life

Life in the Pacific Northwest is defined by our relationship with water. It sustains life—not only in the lush, green environment which surrounds us, but also in our homes, at our jobs and in our communities. We take it for granted that safe water is always accessible to drink, to water our lawns and for many other purposes. Only when water service is interrupted do we realize the extraordinary value of our precious water resources.

The value of water is becoming even more apparent as new supply options become more and more limited. Hillsboro is currently working with regional partners to explore possibilities for supply expansion within the Tualatin Basin that will carry Hillsboro for the next 50 years. To learn more about future supply options, please visit the “Water Supply Study” link at www.cleanwaterservices.org.

What is happening with rates?

The Utilities Commission works hard to control costs, but contemporary issues have made rate increases unavoidable.

- **Rising production costs:** Hillsboro Water has been hit with rapidly escalating costs of power and treatment supplies. In response, staff worked with several organizations such as Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance to find energy savings that will increase efficiency and reliability wherever possible. These award-winning efforts have controlled rising costs, but are unable to off-set them entirely.
- **Aging Infrastructure:** Old pipes and valves must be maintained and replaced or upgraded periodically to ensure water traveling through them is safe and service is reliable. Also, the Water Department will be replacing all manual-read meters with radio-read meters over the next 10 years. This will greatly increase meter reading efficiency and reduce long-term operational costs.
- **Cost of Service:** Operating expenses continue to rise as Hillsboro is impacted by tighter regulations and additional testing requirements for water quality. While these new tests and treatment regulations ensure Hillsboro will always have high quality drinking water, requirements also impact the cost of water production.

Still, despite recent increases, Hillsboro charges one of the lowest rates for water in the Portland-Metropolitan area. For about the same amount paid for a 20 ounce bottle of water at the market (approx. \$1.50), you can fill a 20 ounce bottle with tap water once daily for thirteen years! That’s about 2/10 of one cent per gallon—quite a bargain for something so valuable.

Are you interested in learning more about your drinking water? Please call (503) 615-6702.

Hillsboro Water
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(503) 615-6702