

CITY RESPONSE:
Moving toward recovery

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center and other city facilities and contingency plans for whether and how the City campground will operate.

The City has limited ability to act independently on pandemic response.

“The City has limited decision-making power, we really do,” Ryan said. “We’re following state and federal guidelines.”

The City is awaiting action from the State of Oregon and Deschutes County to initiate a three-phased program to reopen economic and social activity projected to start this month — with restrictions. The City’s current understanding is that, “the first phase includes restaurants and bars, most retail, child-care, outdoor recreation, and other personal services (hair/nail salons, etc.)”

Criteria key off of Trump administration guidelines that say that reopening requires downward trajectories of cases during a 14-day period or of positive tests as a percent of total tests. They also call for “surge capacity” in healthcare systems and “robust testing and contact tracing.” Counties are submitting framework plans for reopening; Deschutes County was expected to complete and submit its plan this week.

Some eastern counties have had very few or no confirmed COVID-19, while overall, the state has seen 2,680 confirmed cases, resulting in 109 deaths. As of Monday, Deschutes County has had 79 confirmed cases, but no COVID-19 deaths.

Deschutes County has seen neither a substantial spike nor a marked, steady decline in cases, which makes it unclear how criteria will be applied here. Misely acknowledged that there is uncertainty in the community because we don’t know when we’ll be in Phase 1 or how long we’ll be in Phase 1. Misely and Ryan told *The Nugget* that the City is committed to providing clear information and guidance as it becomes available.

Clarity and consistency of communication and policy are significant goals for council and staff.

“It’s a very fluid and also nuanced situation,” Misely said.

Ryan and Misely noted that one of the things the Council will have to determine is what message the City is sending out into the broader world regarding Sisters’ posture. Currently, the City is officially discouraging visitors.

Misely said that it’s hard to envision actively encouraging an influx of visitors any time this summer (and

most of Sisters’ major events have canceled in part to avoid doing so) but the City will need to decide, “Do we need to extend the discouragement and what does it mean to be ‘neutral’?”

Misely and Ryan recognized that consistent guidelines and message are important to businesses that are trying to figure out what the next steps are going forward into summer.

Councilors and staff spent several hours last week reaching out to business owners to see what their outlook is. While the business community is clearly taking a serious beating due to restrictions on activity, Ryan said he was impressed by what he heard.

“They’re not giving up,” Ryan said. “They’re reinventing themselves in many ways. I’m just amazed at the resolve of these businesses.”

The City is also looking at ways it might support the community, including providing access to safety and

personal protective equipment. Public Works Project Coordinator Troy Rayburn has been working on sourcing hand-washing stations and sanitizer, and other PPE, but Sisters is one of thousands of municipalities competing for scarce resources.

“It’s pretty dry out there,” Misely said. “It’s rough sledding. There are hundreds of small towns across Oregon struggling to deal with this.”

Misely said that the City is also open to looking at ways it can support businesses in meeting state and county requirements for social distancing in restaurant settings and conforming to other guidelines. It’s also important that the businesses in Sisters are all on the same page in meeting customer and employee safety requirements.

“How can we make sure the businesses are being as consistent as possible?” Misely said.

While many Sisters events have canceled on their own

initiative, Misely said that the City has never flatly said that they will not issue an event permit. Event permits going forward will be subject to ongoing state-level restrictions on gathering size. City code requires that event permit applications include a public-safety plan. That plan has to be signed off on by the Deschutes County Health Department.

“Within that plan, it needs to address COVID-19,” Misely said.

It’s not clear yet how that will play out in practical terms.

“We haven’t crossed that bridge yet,” Misely said. “We’re trying to build a channel to the county.”

As the Sisters community seeks to emerge from lockdown and move into a

social and economic environment radically changed by COVID-19, the City of Sisters is striving to find a way to balance public health and safety and economic and social well-being — with constraints on their range of action and limited tools in the policy tool kit.

“It’s a perfect storm,” Misely said. “It really is.”



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Black Butte Ranch Water Distribution Company
Annual Water Quality Report 2019
January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019

This is the 2019 Black Butte Ranch Water Distribution Company (BBRWDC) Consumer Confidence Report (CCR).

BBRWDC routinely monitors your drinking water, which is derived solely from ground water sources, for certain constituents. We have no quality violations and our water quality meets, or is better than, state and federal standards. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain constituents in water. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It is important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information about water constituents and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

Table one shows monitoring results from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 or the date of the last test for a particular constituent. Your water is tested for 80 organic, 16 inorganic, microbial, and radiological constituents. Only those, which were detected in your water within the last five years, are included in table one.

In table one you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we’ve provided the following definitions:

Parts per million (PPM) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
Parts per billion (PPB) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
PicoCuries per liter - (pCi/L) is a measure of radioactivity.
Action Level (AL) - the concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.
Maximum Contaminant Level - the “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - the “Goal” (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water, below which, there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
Not Detected - (ND) NO trace of contaminant present.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants						
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)				10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Well #1 tested: 7/11/19	N	0.08	ppm or mg/L			
Well #2/5 tested: 7/11/19	N	0.1				
Well #3 tested: 6/13/19	N	0.08				
Well #4 tested: 7/11/19	N	0.08				
Copper 6/1/18	N	0.225	ppm or mg/L	.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead 6/5/18	N	0.008	ppb	0	AL=1.5	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Asbestos tested 6/5/19	N	0.1208	MFL	7	7	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits

The 2019 Nitrate analysis results (level detected) in the water as shown in the table above are well below the 10 ppm allowable limit. The results are essentially non-detect.

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Black Butte Ranch Water Company is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

The 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act require that all states conduct source water Assessments for public water systems within their boundaries. The assessments consist of (1) identification of the Drinking Water Protection Area, i.e., the area at the surface that is directly above that part of the aquifer that supplies groundwater to our wells, (2) identification of potential sources of pollution within the Drinking Water Protection Area, and (3) determining the susceptibility or relative risk to the well water from those sources.

The purpose of the assessment is to provide water systems with the information they need to develop a strategy to protect their drinking water resource if they choose. The respective Drinking Water Programs of the Departments of Human Services and Environmental Quality have completed the assessment for our system. A copy of the report is on file at the water system’s office.

- Source water protection tips
- Protection of drinking water is everyone’s responsibility. You can help protect your community’s drinking water source in several ways:
- Eliminate excessive use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides. They contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
 - Dispose of chemicals properly.
 - Pick up after your pets.
 - Have all backflow devices on your property checked annually as required by law.

Semiannual Water Board meetings are held in June at the section five maintenance/housekeeping building and in November after the meeting of the BBRA Board of Directors. Owen Osborne is the Water Board Chairperson. If you have any questions concerning this report or the water system feel free to contact the Utilities Manager, Swen Petterson at 541-595-1280.

Owen Osborne
BBRWDC Chairperson

Swen Petterson
Utilities Manager