



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
NORTHWEST DRINKING WATER REGIONAL OPERATIONS
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September 11, 2024

Eastsound Water Users Association

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Subject: Eastsound Water Users Association (ID #22170)
San Juan County
Response to Community Inquiry

Members of the Board:

This letter is in response to an inquiry from the community regarding Eastsound Water Users Association's (EWUA) operations as a utility and Satellite Management Agency (SMA). Below is the Department of Health Office of Drinking Water (ODW) perspective on EWUA's operations of their public water system and their three contracted systems.

ODW has a Sanitary Survey Program required by drinking water regulations, WAC 246-290. The goal of the program is to help water system personnel improve their water systems and highlight problems before they result in unreliable or unsafe drinking water. To carry out this goal, we inspect water system facilities and review planning documents. Which include technical, managerial, and financial information. These inspections are required every 3-5 years for Group A systems. EWUA and the other systems operated by EWUA are on a three-year rotation.

ODW conducted sanitary surveys of EWUA in 2017, 2020, and 2023. ODW notified EWUA of any deficiencies; each of which, if any, were addressed in a satisfactory manner. The system is currently in compliance according to WAC 246-290 standards.

EWUA became the Satellite Management Agency (SMA) for Olga Water Users Inc, Rosario, and Doe Bay in 2022. ODW completed sanitary surveys for each of these systems within the past two years. ODW notified EWUA of identified deficiencies; each of which, if any, were addressed in a satisfactory manner. The systems are currently in compliance according to WAC 246-290 standards.

ODW considers EWUA an exemplary water utility and positive influence on the local communities they serve. They operate and maintain local water systems and serve as mediators between board members, consultants, regulatory authorities, and customers when needs arise. Their communication with the ODW is essential in the success of delivering safe and reliable drinking water to their many customers. We hope their operational quality, innovation, and adaptability is maintained for years to come.

Sincerely,

Raquel Callans, PE
Regional Engineer
N.W. Drinking Water Operations