



April 2020



Businesses reminded to flush water systems before reopening



As businesses begin planning for possible re-openings in May, CFPUA is reminding business owners and others responsible for maintenance to flush their buildings' private plumbing and water systems.

When a building's water system goes unused, water stagnating in the pipes increases the risk for growth of bacteria such as Legionella.

Legionella can grow in water temperatures between 77 and 108 degrees Fahrenheit. Furthermore, disinfection agents such as chlorine that CFPUA uses to treat drinking water can dissipate over time when a building's water systems go unused.

The <u>U.S. Centers for Disease</u>

<u>Control and Prevention (CDC)</u>

<u>recommends</u> flushing cold and hot water points of use such as sinks, drinking fountains, and other fixtures before reopening buildings that have

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Water Conservation Hotline: (910) 332-6566 Water/Sewer Emergencies: (910) 332-6565

Email: communications@cfpua.org

been closed for extended periods.

Fixtures with hot water should be flushed until hot water reaches its maximum temperature. This same process should occur for homes and other facilities that have unoccupied for extended periods.

May board meeting to be held virtually

The CFPUA Board's May meeting, scheduled for 9 a.m. Wednesday, May 13, will be held electronically. Holding May's meeting virtually will allow the Board to conduct business while maintaining social distancing.

Members of the public can submit comments to the board before the meeting by filling out the form at this link: <u>CFPUA.org/public-comment</u>. Comments are due by 5 p.m. Monday, May 11.

Check <u>www.CFPUA.org</u> in the coming days for information about how to watch the meeting.

The May meetings of the CFPUA Board's Finance and Executive committees, scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, have been canceled.

CFPUA staff sheltering-in-place at water treatment plants









While many CFPUA employees are working from home to help slow the spread of COVID-19, a handful of water treatment operators are living at work for multiday stints.

On April 6, CFPUA began dispatching operator teams for 7-day shifts to the Sweeney Water Treatment Plant and Richardson Nanofiltration Plant. Having staff shelter-in-place at the plants reduces their chances of infection, helping ensure that CFPUA continues to have adequate staffing to provide safe, consistent water service.

The Sweeney teams each include four operators and the Richardson teams include three operators.

To provide comfortable, private living space at the plants, CFPUA has rented trailers – one per on-duty employee – and stationed them on the grounds of the plants. The trailers are equipped with WiFi and television for when the employees are off duty. Staff at the plants are being provided all meals and have access to washers and dryers and a full kitchen

This measure is estimated to cost CFPUA about \$160,000 per month.

"We recognize the sacrifices these employees are making in their personal lives to serve our community during this extraordinary time," Executive Director Jim Flechtner said. "They have my gratitude and, I feel confident, the gratitude of our customers as well."

Read more about the process at WECT News and Coastal Review Online.

Filter replacement underway at Richardson



A once-per-decade project to replace filter membranes at the Richardson Nanofiltration Plant is moving forward.

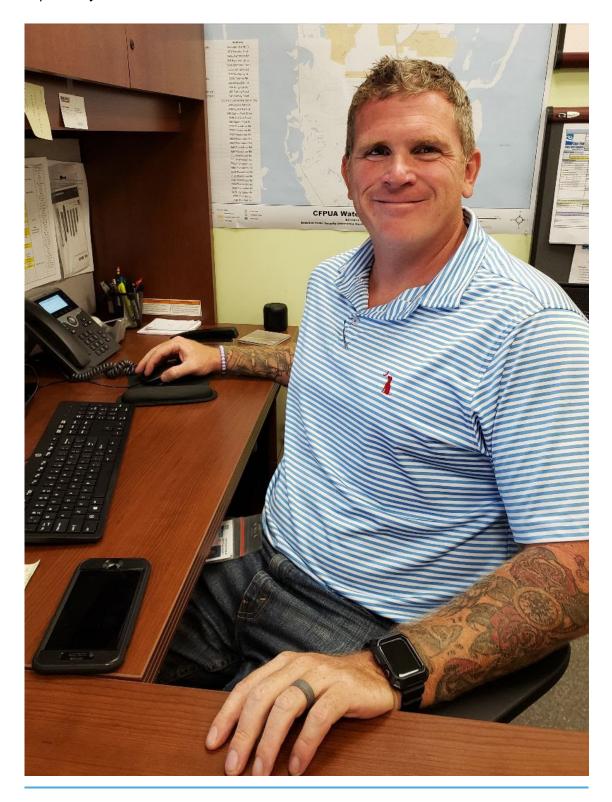
The Richardson Plant, which supplies drinking water to CFPUA customers in northern New Hanover County, uses a network of membranes to filter groundwater sourced from the Castle Hayne and Pee Dee aquifers. Water is filtered using low-pressure reverse osmosis membranes.

To ensure optimal performance the membranes must be replaced every 10 years. But higher-than-average use during summer 2019's drought conditions led CFPUA to begin the replacement process several months early.

"Even as some of our Richardson Plant staff adjusts to sheltering-in-place, while others work remotely, they are staying on top of this critical project, which is now about 75 percent complete," Deputy Executive Director Carel Vandermeyden said. "Replacing these filter membranes will protect the quality of our Richardson customers' drinking water for the next decade."

Employee Spotlight

Each month we introduce you to one of the more than 300 employees at CFPUA who work



James Hunnicutt Water Treatment Operations Supervisor

Name: James Hunnicutt
Birthplace: Garner, N.C.

Department/Division: Treatment and Engineering

Position: Water Treatment Operations Supervisor

Length of Employment: 2.5 years

Briefly describe your typical day at work: I review the previous day's water production for the Richardson Nanofiltration Plant and the Monterey Heights Water System, as well as daily lab results. Then I'll visit various well sites and check on ongoing projects related to field services and water treatment. I frequently meet with contractors for updates on projects as well.

What do you enjoy most about your job? I like performing a public service. It's satisyfying knowing my work has a direct impact on the community.

Tell us about one of your biggest accomplishments or challenges while working at CFPUA: Starting in a newly formed department in a new capacity as a supervisor a few days before Hurricane Florence (in September 2018). Due to our staffs' skills and experience, we were able to hit the ground running.

What advice would you give to recent new hires? CFPUA is a great organization that puts its employees and its customers first. Hard work and dedication is often recognized. What's one thing you'd want customers to know about your department, position, or CFPUA in general? The amount of time, focus, and energy it takes to provide water and wastewater services, and the level of knowledge and professionalism of CFPUA employees is to be commended.

What do you like to do when you're not at work? I spend time with my wife and two kids. I like to stay active with sports and boating -- and golfing when I can.

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