GIG HARBOR ACADEMY

Water Main Extension & Corrosion Mitigation Project Summary

SYSTEM IDENTIFICATION: WA DOH ID #64920

Executive Objective: Gig Harbor Academy (GHA) is transitioning its primary drinking water source from its existing groundwater well to the Washington Water Service Artondale System (ID #03160V). This project permanently resolves historical Department of Health (DOH) lead and copper compliance directives. The existing campus well will be disconnected from the potable system and retained exclusively for landscape irrigation.

1. REGULATORY APPROVALS & COMPLIANCE STATUS

APPROVED	JAN 2027	12-20 DAYS	12 MONTHS
Pierce County Plans	**DOH/DOE Review**	**Physical Work**	**DOH Sampling**
Engineering construction drawings fully approved.	Resubmitted for comments; response expected Jan 27.	Phased main extension and service installation.	5 building samples taken at 6 & 12 mo intervals.

2. INTERIM ON-CAMPUS SAFETY & PROTECTION MEASURES

Immediate precautionary steps and independent verification implemented during project execution:

- **Independent Water Sampling:** Retained a licensed Professional Engineer (PE) to collect independent water samples and evaluate water quality at GHA and within the WA Water Artondale system.
- **Point-of-Use Water Filtration:** Installed under-sink heavy-metal filters (rated for lead reduction) at designated campus locations as an added voluntary precaution.
- **Clear Signage & Alternate Supply:** Placed visual non-potable reminders at all tap locations and expanded campus water cooler capacity/bottled water reserves.
- **Community Communication:** Continuing regular updates via campus postings, website, direct written notices (including Official Notice #2), and hosted Q&A sessions.

3. CONSTRUCTION PHASING & TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

PHASED CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE (12–20 DAYS)

1. **Right-of-Way Trenching:** Open trenching in 32nd St NW directly in front of school.
2. **Traffic Control & Plating:** Traffic management with heavy metal plates during off-hours.
3. **Mainline & Meter:** 320 LF 8" main extension + 2" meter at property line entrance.
4. **HDD Directional Boring:** Trenchless boring from meter to campus water manifold.
5. **Restoration & Inspection:** Backfilling, asphalt paving, pressure & bact testing.

ENGINEERING & SYSTEM PARAMETERS

Main Line Extension	320 LF of 8-inch C900 PVC
Service Connection	2-inch service & master meter setup
On-Campus Connection	Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)
Pressure Rating	225 PSI hydrostatic clearance
Groundwater Well	Isolated for irrigation use only

4. POST-CONNECTION WATER QUALITY VERIFICATION & FINAL OUTCOME

DOH 12-MONTH WATER QUALITY EVALUATION

- **Sampling Protocol:** 5 specific building sample points across campus.
- **Sampling Schedule:** 2 complete testing rounds, spaced 6 months apart over the first 12 months.
- **Historical Points:** Mandatory inclusion of prior exceedance sampling locations.

LONG-TERM SYSTEM RESOLUTION

- **Full Utility Consolidation:** Upon successful water quality verification, GHA will proceed to full system consolidation under WA Water.
- **Contingency Mitigation:** Additional targeted on-site treatment will be added if localized water chemistry requires adjustment.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

***Gig Harbor Academy Water System* Did Not Meet Lead & Copper Rule Drinking Water Requirements**

Our water system violated public drinking water system requirements over the past year. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did (are doing) to correct these situations.

Our system conducted testing for lead and copper in the drinking water, and the testing shows that our Lead levels in the water are above the EPA limit or "action level." We were required to install corrosion control treatment ***ASAP,*** *as required.*

What should I do?

Listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead:

For systems with LSLs – information provided indicated non-lead service lines.
- Run your water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes any standing lead from the pipes.
- Call us at the number below to find out how to get your water tested for lead.
- Find out whether your pipes contain lead or lead solder.
- Don't cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water.
- Do not boil your water to remove lead. Excessive boiling water makes the lead more concentrated – the lead remains when the water evaporates.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. Typically, lead enters water supplies by leaching from lead or brass pipes and plumbing components. New lead pipes and plumbing components containing lead are no longer allowed for this reason. However, many older homes may contain lead pipes. Your water is more likely to contain high lead levels if water pipes in or leading to your home are made of lead or contain lead solder.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

What is being done?

Gig Harbor Academy, Northwest Water Systems, and the Washington State Department of Health are working together to establish an intertie connection with a neighboring water system. The Department of Health has received the resubmitted Water System Plan (WSP) and is expected to respond by December 24, 2026. Bottled water continues to be provided to all water consumers during this process. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Gig Harbor Academy Public Water System ID#: 649204. Date distributed: 11/06/2026.

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER
PUBLIC EDUCATION

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER. **Gig Harbor Academy** found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

Department of Health, EPA, and Gig Harbor Academy are concerned about lead in your drinking water. Monitoring results indicated that the 90th percentile lead level exceeded the EPA Lead Action Level of 0.015 mg/L (15 ppb). The highest lead result detected during the monitoring period was 0.0394 mg/L (39.4 ppb) at a kitchen sink location.

We are required to have a plan in place to minimize lead in your drinking water by ASAP. This plan includes

1) Working with the Department of Health and Northwest Water Systems to establish an intertie connection with a neighboring water system.
2) Educate our consumers about the potential health effects.
3) Providing bottled water to consumers during this process.

If you have any questions about how we are carrying out the requirements of the lead regulation, please give us a call us at **(253) 265-2150**, or visit our Web site at **https://gigharboracademy.org**.

Health Effects of Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by high levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is accumulated in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

Lead in Drinking Water

Lead, a metal found in natural deposits, is rarely found in source water, but enters tap water through corrosion of household plumbing materials. Corrosion is a dissolving or wearing away of metal caused by a chemical reaction between water and your plumbing. The household plumbing may include lead pipes, lead solder, faucets, valves, and other components made of brass. The most common problem is with brass or chrome-plated brass faucets and fixtures which can leach significant amounts of lead into the water, especially hot water. Lead from other sources (such as lead-based paint and contaminated dust or soil) can increase a person's overall exposure, which adds to the effects of lead consumed in drinking water.

A prohibition on lead in plumbing materials has been in effect since 1986, and therefore, homes built before 1986 are more likely to have lead-containing pipes, fixtures, and solder. The lead ban means that only "lead free" pipe, solder or flux maybe used in the installation or repair of any plumbing providing water for human consumption. But even "lead free" materials may contain traces of lead. The term "lead free" means that solder and flux may not contain more than 0.2 percent lead, and that pipes and pipe fittings may not contain more than 8 percent lead.

Reducing your exposure:

- When water has been sitting for 6 hours or more in the pipes, flush water through the pipe by running the cold-water tap until the water is noticeably colder before using for drinking or cooking. **The longer water has been sitting in the pipes, the more dissolved metals it may contain.**
- Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Hot water may contain higher levels of lead. Boiling water can increase the level of lead in the water.
- Frequently clean the filter screens and aerators in faucets to remove captured particles.
- If building or remodeling, only use "lead free" or low lead piping and materials. Avoid using copper piping or brass fixtures for locations where water will be consumed or used in food preparation (such as kitchen or bathroom sinks).
- Some faucet and pitcher filters can remove lead from drinking water. If you use a filter, be sure you get one that is certified to remove lead by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF).
- You can consume water from another source, such as bottled or delivered water.

Health Tip:

To help block the storage of lead in your child's body, serve family meals that are low in fat and high in calcium and iron, including dairy products and green vegetables.

More information:

More information on lead in drinking water is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or online: http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead You may also access Washington State Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water website at http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/DW/default.htm.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at *http://www.epa.gov/lead* or contact your health care provider.