

# Seattle Water Department Superintendent's Correspondence, 1891-1995

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	Seattle (Wash.) Water Dept.
<b>Title</b>	Seattle Water Department Superintendent's Correspondence
<b>Dates</b>	1891-1995 (inclusive) 1891 1995
<b>Quantity</b>	9.8 cubic feet, (11 boxes)
<b>Collection Number</b>	8200-02
<b>Summary</b>	Records documenting the administration, activities and projects of the Seattle Water Department.
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">Seattle Municipal Archives</a> Seattle Municipal Archives Office of the City Clerk City of Seattle PO Box 94728 98124-4728 Seattle, WA Telephone: 206-233-7807 Fax: 206-386-9025 <a href="mailto:archives@seattle.gov">archives@seattle.gov</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	Records are open to the public.
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Sponsor</b>	Funding for processing this record series was provided through a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

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## Historical Note

A public waterworks was created by City Charter amendment in 1875. However, Seattle was served primarily by small private water companies for the next decade-and-a-half. Following the Great Fire of 1889, citizens voted to fund creation of a municipally owned water system. The City purchased the private systems and began development of the Cedar River Watershed, and since 1891, has owned and operated a municipal water system. The system was administered by the Superintendent of Water under the auspices of the Board of Public Works. In 1905 the Department of Lighting and Water Works was created. Five years later, the Water Department became a separate entity. Most of the water used by the Seattle Water Department came from the Cedar River Watershed property, which also provided income for the department through the selling of logging rights. Several timber companies including Weyerhaeuser Company, Scott Paper Company and Pacific States Lumber Company, all had contracts with the Water Department. In the 1950s, Seattle voters chose to add fluoride to the city's water supply and charged the Water Department with the task of fluoridating. The election was a close one, however, and debate over the policy lasted into the '70s. In 1997 the Water Department was consolidated with the utilities of the Engineering Department to form Seattle Public Utilities.

# Content Description

Correspondence of the Superintendent of Water concerning all aspects of SWD activities. The bulk of the correspondence is in 54 letterpress volumes of outgoing letters spanning the years 1891-1958. Unbound correspondence is comprised of letters exchanged with other City departments, 1907-1957, and correspondence with other water districts, municipalities and government agencies, ca 1955-1995. Also included is correspondence with and about the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe regarding treaty right issues.

# Use of the Collection

## Preferred Citation

[Item and date], Seattle Water Department Superintendent's Correspondence , Record Series 8200-02. Box [number], Folder [number]. Seattle Municipal Archives.

# Administrative Information

## Arrangement

Letter press volumes arranged chronologically, loose correspondence arranged alphabetically.

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# Detailed Description of the Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

## 8200-02: Water Department Superintendent's Correspondence , 1891-1995

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	Letterpress Volumes 1-7	1891-1908
2/1	Letterpress volumes 8-13	1908-1911
3/1	Letterpress volumes 14-19	1911-1914
4/1	Letterpress volumes 20-25	1914-1917
5/1	Letterpress volumes 26-31	1917-1920

<b>Container(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
6/1	Letterpress volumes 32-37	1920-1923
7/1	Letterpress volumes 38-43	1923-1931
8/1	Letterpress volumes 44-48	1931-1949
9/1	Letterpress volumes 49-54	1949-1958
10/1	Superintendent of Lighting and Water Works Correspondence	1907-1910
10/2	Chronological Correspondence	1927-1951
10/3	Superintendent of Buildings	1913-1951
10/4	City Council	1946-1957
10/5	City Engineer	1941-1949
10/6	Health Commissioner	1934-1943
10/7	Superintendent of Light Dept	1941-1944
10/8	Mayor	1932-1957
10/9	S. M. Taki re Regrade	1941
10/10	Everett, City of	1937-1965
10/11	Everett, City of	1966-1994
10/12	METRO	1989-1993
10/13	METRO	1986-1988
10/14	METRO	1982-1985
10/15	Muckleshoot Indian Tribe	1980-1991
11/1	Tacoma, City of	1987-1995
11/2	Tacoma, City of	1985-1986

Container(s)	Description	Dates
11/3	Tacoma, City of	1983-1984
11/4	Tacoma, City of	1977-1982
11/5	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	1988-1996
11/6	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	1984-1987
11/7	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	1974-1979
11/8	University of Washington	1968-1988
11/9	Washington Dept. of Ecology	1988-1989
11/10	Washington Dept. of Fisheries re Cedar River Sockeye Project	1991

## Names and Subjects

### Subject Terms :

Cedar River Watershed (King County, Wash.)  
Municipal water supply--Washington (State)--Seattle  
Water quality--Washington (State)--Seattle  
Water utilities--Washington (State)--Seattle

### Corporate Names :

Everett (Wash.) Water Dept.  
Seattle (Wash.). Dept. of Lighting and Water Works  
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe of the Muckleshoot Reservation, Washington  
Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle  
Seattle (Wash.) Water Dept.  
Tacoma (Wash.). Dept. of Public Utilities

### Geographical Names :

Seattle (Wash.)

Finding aid prepared by Janet Ness  
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