



Santiam Water Control District
284 East Water Street
Stayton, OR 97383

July 15, 2026

Owner Name
Owner Address
City, State Zip

Dear Landowner/Resident,

Between August 1, 2026, and August 21, 2026, a field crew will be performing cultural and historical resources research surveys along portions of the Santiam Water Control District's (District) canals and pipelines. The crew will be from the Historical Research Associates.

The surveys are needed to support the District's ongoing effort to develop a Watershed Plan - EA Cultural Resources Assessment with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and in coordination with the Bureau of Reclamation, to modernize (pipe) portions of the District's irrigation conveyance infrastructure.

First, public utility locates will be called in to identify any utilities that may be buried within or along the project. It may be necessary to do private locates where utilities extend to home or across fields to avoid inadvertently digging into them and interrupting service. Next archaeologists will walk along the edges of the existing canals and proposed pipelines and other features looking for objects including Native American and historic-period (more than 50 years old) artifacts visible on the ground surface, in exposed cutbanks, roads, rodent holes, and other areas free of vegetation. If you know of any Native American or abandoned historic sites in the area, please let us know.

As archaeologists do this, that will also be digging a series of shovel probes, holes about 1 foot in diameter and 2-3 feet deep. In some places, they may use a standard 5-inch auger to dig deeper than 3 feet within these holes. The soil from within the hole will be screened through hardware mesh and returned to the hole. If any of these are done in areas with dense or maintained grasses, the archaeologists will first remove the grasses and set them aside, then return them to the top of the hole after backfilling to encourage reseeding. The screening will be done over a tarp so that all soil can be returned to the hole.

The archaeological surveys will take about 2 weeks. Finally, 1 or 2 architectural historians will be present August 17th to August 21st recording historic-period built resources including canals and canal features, and any structures close to the canal system. This involves taking photographs and recording information about them. This is non-invasive and done within public rights-of-way when possible but may involve the staff driving roads close enough to properly record them.

For more information about the District's Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment, you can visit: <https://watershedplans.org/santiam-wcd> or the District website, www.santiamwater.gov.

We appreciate your cooperation as we work to pipe and modernize the system. If you have any questions, please call the District office at 503-769-2669 or contact District Manager Brent Stevenson directly at 503-559-2695.

Sincerely,

Brent Stevenson

Brent Stevenson
District Manager