



*"Providing safe, clean water to South King County residents since 1946"*

# Highline Water District

## The WaterLine

Winter, 2012

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206-824-0375  
Hours: Monday - Friday  
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



### Board of Commissioners

Gerald R. Guite  
Vince Koester, President  
Daniel Johnson, Secretary  
George Landon  
Kathleen Quong-Vermeire



Board meetings are held the 1st  
& 3rd Wednesday each month  
1st Wednesday at 9:00 am  
3rd Wednesday at 4:00 pm  
Highline Water District Office  
23828 30th Ave S., Kent, WA  
206-824-0375  
M - F 7 am - 4 pm

### 2012 Rate Increase

Effective January 1, 2012, the District will raise water rates by approximately 6% for most residential and commercial customers. Low income (Senior or Disabled) residential customers will see a 4.3% increase.

The primary reason for the increase is to pay for the 28% wholesale water rate increase from Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). SPU raised its rates to the residents of Seattle, Highline, and other water agencies because of lower water sales over the past few years and a forecast of continuing lower water sales in the future. The entire SPU (King County) region used the same amount of water in 2010 as in 1956 with nearly twice the population. The dour economy has caused many homes and businesses to use considerably less water than normal, meaning lower revenues to pay for necessary operations and capital projects, such as replacement of aging water pipes.

Average single-family residential (SFR) customers using 600 cubic feet (6 ccf) of water per winter month (October to May) and using 850 cubic feet (8.5 ccf) of water per summer month (June to September) will see their monthly water bill increase by about \$2.15 per month or \$4.30 for a two-month bill. Low Income (Senior or Disabled) residential customers using the same amount of water will see their bill increase by \$1.39 per month or \$2.78 for a two-month bill.

### 2012 Water Rates

Meter Size	Monthly Fixed Charge	Variable Rates \$ / ccf		
		Winter	Summer (0-5)	Summer (6+)
<b>Single Family Residential</b>				
(Low Income) Senior or Disabled	\$9.24	\$3.43	\$3.43	\$4.06
5/8" or 3/4"	\$13.24	\$3.43	\$3.43	\$4.06
1"	\$23.54	\$3.43	\$3.43	\$4.06
1 1/2"	\$39.97	\$3.43	\$3.43	\$4.06
2"	\$61.33	\$3.43	\$3.43	\$4.06
<b>Commercial &amp; Multi-Family Residential</b>				
5/8" or 3/4"	\$20.13	\$3.43	\$3.43	\$4.06
1"	\$40.67	\$3.43	\$3.43	\$4.06
1 1/2"	\$74.16	\$3.43	\$3.43	\$4.06
2"	\$116.07	\$3.43	\$3.43	\$4.06
3"	\$242.03	\$3.43	\$3.43	\$4.06
4"	\$366.93	\$3.43	\$3.43	\$4.06
6"	\$710.15	\$3.43	\$3.43	\$4.06
8"	\$1120.87	\$3.43	\$3.43	\$4.06

The District continuously looks for opportunities to cut costs while still providing our ratepayers with excellent quality water and service. The District has reduced its staffing by 30% over the past ten years in spite of gaining many new customers. This downsizing was completed by using more efficient methods and outsourcing certain tasks. The District explores ways to reduce its reliance on SPU's costly wholesale water by redeveloping its existing ground water rights. The District's newest treatment plant at McMicken Heights will become operational this summer, providing our ratepayers with an additional water supply of lower priced, high quality water.

## *CIP Projects: Your Water Dollars at Work*

The District's Mission Statement is:

*"The Board of Commissioners and employees of Highline Water District take seriously our duties to deliver the highest quality water at the most economical price. We pledge to continue our aggressive policy of maintaining and protecting your investment in District facilities and equipment."*

The District's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is an on-going effort with the primary mission of improving the District's aging infrastructure with modern, more efficient, reliable technology and materials. In 2012, the District will invest approximately \$6.5 million into the CIP effort. Four projects will be in construction in 2012 and the planning effort will start for two new projects. These projects include:

- **Southcenter Parkway Extension Project** – The District partnered with the City of Tukwila and Segale Properties to install approximately 10,900 LF of new 16" water main along Southcenter Parkway from S 180th St to S 200th St. The new main replaces an aging water main along Frager Road. Construction of the new water main and parkway is anticipated to be complete by summer 2012.
- **McMicken Heights Well and Treatment Plant** – In 2011, the District began construction of a new water treatment plant to serve an existing groundwater well in the McMicken Heights area. The project is part of the District's strategy to reduce dependency on Seattle's regional water system and to improve supply redundancy. The well and treatment plant will be capable of producing approximately 500 gpm of water with the capability of expansion to 650 gpm on a continuous basis. Construction will be complete by spring 2012.
- **Star Lake Tank Interior and North Hill Tank Interior and Exterior Recoat Project** – The District will replace the existing coatings for the two tanks. The Star Lake tank is located near Star Lake Road in Federal Way and the North Hill Tank is located at S 208th St and 5th Ave S in Des Moines. The maintenance effort will help to protect the existing steel tanks from corrosion and extend their overall useful life. Work will begin summer of 2012 and should be completed by the end of the year.
- **Des Moines Gateway Project** - The City of Des Moines plans to improve the roadway along 24th Ave S from S 208th St to S 216th St as part of the Des Moines Gateway Project. The District will partner with the City to replace the existing water main at the same time as the road project. The District has completed the design effort and has allocated funding to participate with the City. A construction start date has yet to be determined.
- **Military Road Water Main Replacement** – The District will partner with the City of Seatac to replace approximately 4,000 LF of aging water main along Military Road from S 176th St to S 166th St. The work will be in conjunction with the City's road improvement project. Design of the water work will begin in 2012 and construction is anticipated to begin in 2013.
- **Angle Lake Water Main Replacement Project** – The District was selected for a low interest Public Works Trust Fund loan to replace aging pipe along the south and east side of Angle Lake. The District will be retaining a consultant in early 2012 to assist with the planning, design and permitting of the project. The planning effort is anticipated to begin spring 2012.



***Visit us online - [www.highlinewater.org](http://www.highlinewater.org) ..... where you'll find:***

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