Commissioner’s Corner

Capital Improvement Projects - CIP

The District’s Capital Improvement Program 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 2015, the District will continue its aggressive approach to reinvestment into the water distribution system through capital improvements. Three existing and one new water main replacement projects are scheduled for design and/or construction in 2015; totaling approximately 18,600 linear feet, or 3.5 miles of new and/or replaced water main. These projects include:

- Project 13-1A - Angle Lake Water Main Replacement
- Project 13-3 - City of SeaTac 24th/28th Ave South Extension (S 200th St - S 208th St)
- Project 14-3 - Manhattan View Water Main Replacement
- Project 14-4 - 40th Ave S Water Main Replacement

Proposed expenditures for our 2015 CIP projects total $5.5 million. All projects will be funded by a combination of existing water rates, connection charges from development, and low interest Public Works Trust Fund loans.

For more details on these projects and other CIP’s, visit our website at http://www.highlinewater.org/publications/capital-improvements.aspx.

No Water Rate Increase for 2015

We are happy to report there will be no rate increase in 2015. The District continues to explore ways to minimize costs without reducing water quality or customer service. The winter rate will remain $3.55 per CCF for all consumption. The summer rate (June 1 to September 30) will remain $3.55 per CCF for the first 5 CCF per month or 10 CCF per two month bill and $4.20 per CCF for all water used in excess of this amount. All meter base rates will also remain the same.
Irrigation System Startup is the Time to Check for Leaks!

Even the best automatic in-ground irrigation system is only about 70% water efficient. In many cases, automatic irrigation systems can waste up to 50% of the water they use through evaporation, runoff and over-watering. Much more water (and money) can be spent on irrigation system leaks! The best way to make sure your irrigation system operates at peak efficiency is to check for leaks monthly; and manage, fine-tune, and maintain your system annually. This includes annual backflow testing by a certified Backflow Tester. For a list of testers, go to our web site - www.Highlinewater.org. Yearly testing of your backflow preventer is a state requirement (WAC 246-290-490). Make sure you send the District a copy of the test results. Efficient watering is a great way to improve the health of your landscape and your bottom line!

www.Savingwater.org is our regional website sponsored by the Saving Water Partnership, a group of 19 local water utilities who work together to provide water conservation programs, consumer education, and rebate information to customers of South King County. Thanks to the efforts of residential, commercial and institutional customers, regional water consumption is as low as it was in the late 1950’s, even though our population has grown by more than 80%. Conserving water helps manage the impact of growth on the region’s drinking water supplies now and for generations to come.

There Are Many Ways To Pay Your Water Bill

- Receive and pay e-bills with our free customer payment site through e-CARE. A link to e-CARE is on our website - www.highlinewater.org. This free service allows you to pay your bill with a credit or debit card. E-care contains a variety of useful information about your account including billing, payment and use history.
- You may pay by credit or debit card over the phone through our automated payment system. Call 206-824-0375 - press 2 and follow the prompts. You will need your account number to use this system.
- Sign up for electronic funds transfer through AutoPay. AutoPay is an automated way to pay the exact amount of the bill on the due date. AutoPay forms are available on our website or by calling 206-824-0375.
- Bill Payer Service through your bank – remember to put your account number & service address on your payment. Please keep in mind that it can take up to a week for us to receive your payment.
- Mail your payment with a check in the envelope that is provided with your bill. Please include your account number on the check.
- Pay your bill by check, cash or credit card at our office during business hours (7:00am 4:00pm). After hours, there is a drop box in front of our fence for checks. Remember - never put cash in the drop box.
- You may pay your bill in person, Monday through Saturday, 10 am - 5:30 pm, at Des Moines Drugs. Their address is 627 South 227th St., Des Moines, WA. They accept cash and checks.
- You can always give us a call at 206-824-0375 to speak with one of our customer service representatives. Payment over the phone is limited to debit or credit card.

Senior/Disabled Low Income Discount

A reduced base rate is offered to owners that occupy their home and are currently receiving the low income Senior Citizen/Disabled persons property tax reduction from King County.

Tenants being billed directly from the District, and are at least 61 years of age or are permanently disabled with a combined household income of less than $35,000 per year, may qualify for the reduced base rate. Proof of income is required.

The size of your meter must be under 1” to qualify for the discount. Forms are available online at www.Highlinewater.org, or by calling 206-824-0375.