



23828 30th Avenue South, Kent, Washington
(206) 824-0375

Fall/Winter 2021

The *WaterLine* Newsletter

Water-Related News and Information from Highline Water District

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- ✓ Senior and disabled discounts available
- ✓ New water rates for 2022
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Help Us Keep Your Water Meters and Fire Hydrants Accessible

Servicing water meters is usually straightforward—unless we have to search for the meter in overgrown foliage, or worse, perform tree and shrub maintenance to access it.

The same is true of fire hydrants—routine maintenance tasks take much longer when we have to clear away vegetation. Even worse, it may prevent the fire department from accessing the hydrant during an emergency.

Please take a moment to check your meters and hydrants:

- Trim away any shrubs or ground covers that are hiding the equipment.
- When buying new plants, verify their size upon maturity: please don't plant bushes or plants that will eventually cover your meter or hydrant.
- Do not install landscape bricks, rocks, or retaining walls that block our staff or firemen from accessing your water meter or fire hydrant.
- If you see a fire hydrant that needs to be uncovered or painted, email us at customerservice@highlinewater.org or call (206) 824-0375.

Why does meter accessibility matter, given that our water meters are “Radio-Read?” If the water meter can't be easily located, it can't be easily turned off in the event of a leak—leading to more damage and cost. Help us keep you and our community safe!

Can you find the water meter in this picture?

(neither can we) 😊



Discounts Available for Seniors and Disabled Persons

Senior low income/disabled property owners who own and reside in the same home and are responsible for the water bill may be eligible for a discount on their water bill.

The reduction is available for residential water meters of 1” or less in size. Homeowners must be receiving the King County property tax reduction to be eligible for the water bill discount.

If you are not receiving the property tax reduction you may consider contacting King County for eligibility. The King County tax assessor's office may be reached at 206-296-3920 or on their website at:

www.kingcounty.gov/Assessor/TaxpayerAssistance/TaxRelief.aspx

Discount Eligibility for Tenants:

Senior low income/disabled tenants that are being billed directly from Highline Water District may be eligible for the discount. The reduction is available for residential water meters of 1” or less in size. You must be 61 years of age or older or permanently disabled, with a combined household income of less than \$58,423 (2021) per year.

How to Request the Discount:

If you meet the above eligibility requirements you may contact our office to apply for the discount. We can be reached at 206-824-0375. Approved applicants will receive a 50% reduction in the base rate portion of your water bill.

New Water Rates for 2022

Effective January 1, 2022, water rates will increase by 3.5%.

An average single-family residential customer—those who are using 600 cubic feet (6 CCF) of water per winter month, and 800 cubic feet (8 CCF) per summer month—will see their water bill increase by about \$1.50 per month, or \$3.00 for a two-month billing cycle.

The reasons for the rate adjustment are two-fold:

1. To keep pace with inflation: the District did not increase rates in 2021, even though the cost of labor, materials and services rose significantly. High inflation is forecasted to continue into next year.
2. To support infrastructure and capital improvements, including replacing aging water mains adjacent to Sound Transit Light Rail, water system impacts by the WSDOT SR-509 project, and to accommodate several other city projects across our service area.

To ease the financial burden for low-income seniors or disabled persons, the District is increasing the discount from 35% to 50% of the base rate charge (see details in the article on page 1).

2022 Water Commodity Rates

All Customer Types	Oct–May Winter	0 - 5 CCF Summer	6+ CCF Summer	Irrigation Water
	\$3.96	\$3.96	\$4.69	\$4.69

2022 Meter Base Charges

Meter Size	Available Gallons per Minute	Single Family Residence	Low Income Senior or Disabled	Commercial or Multi-Family	Fire	Irrigation
5/8" or 3/4"	20/25	\$16.07	\$8.04	\$24.45	N.A.	\$24.45
1"	50	\$28.60	\$14.30	\$49.42	N.A.	\$49.42
1.5"	100	\$48.55	N.A.	\$90.09	\$10.36	\$90.09
2"	160	\$74.51	N.A.	\$141.01	\$13.74	\$141.01
2.5"	300	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	\$20.17	N.A.
3"	450	N.A.	N.A.	\$294.02	\$38.48	N.A.
4"	600	N.A.	N.A.	\$445.76	\$47.69	N.A.
6"	1,350	N.A.	N.A.	\$862.68	\$69.07	N.A.
8"	1,600	N.A.	N.A.	\$1,361.64	\$93.53	N.A.
10"	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	\$120.98	N.A.



If you are experiencing financial hardship, financial assistance may be available to you from the resources below:

King County 2-1-1 1-800-621-4636

This number connects people to the help they need most—from housing assistance and help with financial needs, to the nearest food bank—with the most comprehensive information on health and human services in King County.

Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) 1-253-517-2263

This program is administered by the Multi-Service Center on behalf of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Learn more here: <https://msc.itfrontdesk.com>



Winston, our office mascot

The WaterLine Newsletter is brought to you by Highline Water District and its Board of Commissioners:

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Contact us Monday through Friday from 7:00 am through 4:00 pm at (206) 824-0375 or customerservice@highlinewater.org

Visit us at 23828 30th Avenue South, Kent, Washington 98032 • www.highlinewater.org