

# SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN SEWER DISTRICT

December 2017



*"Dedicated to Preserve the Purity of Your Environment"*

## Ratepayer News

### A LETTER FROM YOUR COMMISSIONER

As your sewer commissioner, it is my honor to tell you about exciting developments at SWSSD. For many years staff and management have had a vision of a new maintenance and administration facility that would better serve our ratepayers. In 2010, while property values were down, the District purchased our property on Des Moines Memorial Drive (the old YMCA property). That timely investment has benefited the District, and our new facility is nearing completion.

60% of the facility is designed to be home to our maintenance department, where the District will be able to house all of our maintenance vehicles under one roof. As a result, we will be able to better maintain expensive equipment such as our vactor truck, camera truck, backhoe and more at one location under cover, which will extend the lives of that equipment while increasing the efficiency of staff. The other 40% of the facility will be dedicated to the administration of the District.

Because all of these vehicles associated with maintaining sewer lines will be at this new facility in a commercial area, it will reduce traffic from our Miller Creek Treatment Plant through a residential area by an estimated 80% on the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue access road.

The new facility will also have a fueling station on site, which when combined with housing all of the equipment inside at one location will improve the District's response time to call outs related to sewer emergencies. All of the buildings are built to critical facility standards, designed to function through a major disaster so we can be up and running and able to continue service to our ratepayers. The new generator is capable of running the entire facility for an extended period of time in case of a major power disruption.

The entire administrative staff will be at this new location, including the office, inspection, safety and emergency management, along with sewer maintenance personnel. Without the logistic challenge of having personnel and equipment spread out amongst different locations, efficiency and time management will be greatly improved. There will also be meeting space for public meetings at the same location.

I am so proud of this facility and of our entire staff. Everyone has had input in the planning of this project to insure it is designed to best serve our District. Everyone has worked so hard, and our vision has become a reality.

We are hoping to have the facility complete and ready to move into in January of 2018. At that time we will be hosting an open house for all of our ratepayers to visit the new location. I hope that you are able to come to the open house and see your new facility, and hear about the vision that went into creating it. I look forward to answering any of your questions regarding the project, and to showing the results of many years of hard work.



*Commissioner Susan Genzale*

#### Inside this issue:

<b>Letter from Commissioner</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Salmon Creek Treatment Plant Improvement</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Proposed King County Ordinance</b>	<b>2</b>

#### District Office:

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Forms can be downloaded from the District website to apply for the low income rate discount or to set up electronic bill-payer service. You may also pay your bill via the website: [www.swssd.com](http://www.swssd.com). You are invited to attend the monthly Board of Commissioners meetings at the District Office on the first Tuesday and the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

#### Board of Commissioners:

Scott Hilsen, President  
Susan Genzale, Vice-President  
William Tracy, Secretary

## YOUR SEWER DOLLARS AT WORK

### MAJOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT SCHEDULED FOR SALMON CREEK WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Southwest Suburban Sewer District will be taking on a very large improvement project at the Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in the Shorewood area. Construction is scheduled for spring of 2018.

The primary purpose of the project is to increase the anaerobic sludge digestion capacity, and to improve the dewatering and truck loading of biosolids for transport to Eastern Washington.

The project will consist of the following:

- Construction of a new circular digester (40 foot diameter, 30 foot depth) to replace two smaller digesters built in 1955.
- Construction of a new truck loading bay (for loading 40 foot semi-trailers).
- Installation of dual membrane gas holding covers for the new and existing digesters.
- Replacement of the sludge heating and mixing equipment for the new and existing digesters.
- Replacement of an existing belt filter press with an energy efficient screw press dewatering devise.
- Replacement of electrical motor control centers and control systems which are at the end of their service life.
- Removal and construction of a new laboratory and office building above an existing chlorine contact tanks.
- Construction of a large concrete wall for hill stabilization along the southern border of the treatment plant facility.
- Seismic improvement to the remaining existing building.

More news to come in the near future.



## King County Adopts Ordinance to Impose Utility Right-of-way Tax

The King County Council has adopted Ordinance 2016-0521 (also referred to as Ordinance 18403). This ordinance will establish a King County right-of-way tax attached to your sewer, water and other utility service bills.

This means if you live in an unincorporated area of King County (such as the White Center area), your utility bills will greatly increase. It is projected that your utility bills could increase up to an estimated \$6.00 per month each as a result of this new right-of-way tax.

It is the District's position that the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 57.08.005 (3) and (5) empowers the District to use the roadway right-of-way for the purpose of constructing and maintaining our sewer utilities. The District, along with many other water and sewer districts within the County, oppose the King County Ordinance.

The District continues to advocate on behalf of our customers that the County cannot charge for use of public right-of-way in the manner intended by the Ordinance.