

# SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN SEWER DISTRICT

February 2017



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

# Ratepayer News

## 2017 SEWER RATES

Effective March 1, 2017, our sewer rate will increase from \$31.50 to \$32.75 per month. Your Board of Commissioners, along with the District Manager, work diligently to keep the sewer rates affordable while still addressing the unique requirements of the District. Southwest Suburban Sewer is one of only two sewer districts in Washington State that operates two separate wastewater treatment plants. In addition, our District has an aging sewer collection infrastructure, much of which is 60+ years old and requires an ongoing rehabilitation and improvement program.

The improvements assure quality sewer service collected from your home, moved through our pump stations, and finally processed through one of the two secondary wastewater treatment plants before being discharged into Puget Sound (while exceeding all Department of Ecology requirements). Balancing these needs with keeping rates at a level our ratepayers can afford is the primary challenge that faces the Board and management. *A detailed chart of King County Sewer rates is included on page 2 for your information.*

### Inside this issue:

<b>2017 Sewer Rates</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>City of Des Moines Franchise Payment</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Low Income Rate Program</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Your Sewer Dollars at Work</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>King County Sewer Rates</b>	<b>2</b>

## CITY OF DES MOINES IMPLEMENTS 6% FRANCHISE CHARGE

Ratepayers within the City of Des Moines have seen a 6% utility franchise payment added to their sewer bills as of August 1, 2016. The District is required to collect the payment and forward it to the City of Des Moines. The original goal of the City was to collect a 16% utility tax, but thanks to the joint efforts of SWSSD, Midway Sewer District and Highline Water District, a ten year

agreement was reached with the City of Des Moines. The agreement, reached after months of negotiations, required SWSSD to pay a \$5000 franchise fee to the City in addition to the ongoing 6% charge all for the right to operate within the City's public rights of way. If you have any questions about the 6% charge, you may call the City of Des Moines at (206) 878-4595.

### District Office:

431 SW Ambaum Boulevard  
Burien, Washington 98166  
Phone: 206-244-9575  
Fax: 206-433-8546

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

## YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR THE RATE REDUCTION PROGRAM

In their ongoing effort to keep rates affordable, the Board of Commissioners has decided to keep the low income rate at \$15.00/month. To see if you qualify for this program, go to our website at [www.swssd.com](http://www.swssd.com), or call our office at 206-244-9575.

There is an application form to complete, and you must provide proof of your 2016 income to qualify for the discount for 2017. All information is kept confidential. The Commissioners encourage everyone to check to see if they qualify.



**Board of Commissioners Susan Genzale, Scott Hilsen, and Bill Tracy**

## YOUR SEWER DOLLARS AT WORK

### ADMINISTRATION & MAINTENANCE FACILITY UNDER CONSTRUCTION

You may have driven by the construction site of the District’s new administrative and maintenance facility on Des Moines Memorial Drive South at the site of the old YMCA. Construction should be complete by the end of 2017 and we will be able to move into the much needed larger facility.

The new facility will house all staff (except for wastewater treatment plant staff), eliminating the need for two separate facilities for administrative staff and the employees who maintain our sewer lines. It will also accommodate District vehicles and equipment, some of which are too large to be parked inside our current maintenance facility. There will also be a much more accessible public meeting space.



### Sewer Rates Within King County

Agency	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total \$ increase 2007-2016	\$ average annual increase
Mercer Island	52.14	54.55	58.60	61.23	68.13	71.13	79.58	79.58	84.06	84.80	88.07	32.66	3.27
Kirkland	50.22	51.17	52.54	54.10	66.17	67.83	79.58	79.58	84.06	87.82	91.58	37.60	3.76
Bellevue	43.25	44.30	50.05	51.78	56.43	57.25	79.58	79.58	84.06	88.59	93.13	45.34	4.53
Seattle	55.88	58.13	66.68	67.35	77.10	80.10	73.46	88.13	88.80	92.03	95.65	36.15	3.62
Skyway	50.65	50.65	55.51	56.22	61.15	63.03	67.39	69.18	74.36	78.56	81.35	27.91	2.79
Sammamish Plateau	44.15	44.15	49.69	50.75	59.10	61.27	68.99	70.74	74.22	75.19	78.29	31.04	3.10
Vashon Island	49.00	49.00	49.00	56.00	62.44	62.44	69.93	69.93	73.78	76.53	79.29	27.53	2.75
Tukwila	36.75	38.07	43.54	45.29	52.16	55.36	62.89	66.29	71.03	71.03	74.46	34.28	3.43
Renton	43.18	44.06	49.23	49.88	61.14	62.34	67.28	68.60	70.26	70.26	72.97	27.08	2.71
Woodinville	48.31	49.33	53.28	54.45	57.76	61.04	61.96	66.94	69.18	69.18	71.27	20.87	2.09
Redmond	38.89	39.54	44.19	44.22	48.42	54.49	62.59	62.84	65.73	56.18	57.91	17.29	1.73
Auburn	37.76	37.76	42.92	44.05	49.46	55.20	60.81	62.91	65.72	66.32	69.18	28.56	2.86
NE Sammamish	47.98	47.98	51.93	51.93	56.73	57.35	59.51	62.34	65.25	65.95	67.75	17.97	1.80
Cedar River W&W	44.85	45.38	49.30	49.65	54.74	55.67	59.86	60.36	62.60	62.60	64.38	17.75	1.78
Coal Creek	40.86	40.86	48.63	48.96	53.50	54.29	58.79	59.46	62.39	63.10	65.32	22.24	2.22
Black Diamond	44.23	46.83	50.92	51.06	55.26	55.26	58.95	59.31	62.00	62.00	63.78	17.77	1.78
Kent	38.85	41.76	44.89	48.26	52.71	52.71	57.06	57.75	60.71	61.43	63.69	22.58	2.26
Soos Creek	42.75	42.75	47.45	47.45	52.15	52.95	56.99	57.14	59.53	59.88	61.59	17.13	1.71
Lake Forest Park	40.01	41.09	45.83	46.66	50.86	51.75	54.44	56.38	58.62	59.12	61.03	19.11	1.91
Northshore	38.00	38.75	40.75	44.00	46.10	46.10	51.10	51.10	53.86	53.86	55.45	15.86	1.59
Valley View	34.95	34.95	40.90	40.90	46.10	46.10	51.30	51.80	54.05	54.05	55.96	19.10	1.91
Alderwood	35.86	39.94	42.34	46.03	48.67	55.20	51.46	54.00	54.00	54.00	55.81	18.14	1.81
Ronald W&W (Shoreline)	38.84	39.14	43.05	43.05	47.25	47.25	51.00	50.00	53.50	54.00	55.52	15.16	1.52
Issaquah	45.96	45.96	49.91	50.06	54.11	54.11	50.20	50.20	52.44	61.34	62.88	15.38	1.54
Algona	37.07	37.07	41.02	41.02	41.02	45.22	48.91	48.91	52.24	52.24	53.76	15.17	1.52
*Lakehaven	22.46	23.81	25.51	26.68	28.80	30.27	31.06	31.06	31.91	31.91	32.86	9.45	0.95
*SWSSD	19.50	19.50	21.50	25.50	25.50	27.50	27.50	29.50	29.50	31.50	32.75	12.00	1.20
*Midway	18.00	18.00	20.00	20.00	22.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	25.00	26.00	26.80	8.00	0.80
<b>Averages =</b>	<b>\$40.73</b>	<b>\$41.59</b>	<b>\$45.68</b>	<b>\$47.02</b>	<b>\$51.96</b>	<b>\$53.83</b>	<b>\$58.08</b>	<b>\$59.56</b>	<b>\$62.25</b>	<b>\$63.20</b>	<b>\$65.44</b>	<b>\$22.47</b>	<b>\$2.25</b>

\*Districts with their own wastewater treatment plants.

2017 Sewer rates (in blue) are calculated at the average increase over the previous 10 years (2007-2016).

The final 2 columns are the total increase in sewer rates over the past 10 years and the average annual increase from 2007 to 2015.