

SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN SEWER DISTRICT

March 2019



"Dedicated to Preserve the Purity of Your Environment"

Ratepayer News

2019 SEWER RATES

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Effective March 1, 2019, our base residential sewer rate will increase from \$34.75 a month to \$36.75 a month. The District bills on a bimonthly basis. \$36.75 will also be the new base rate/minimum rate used for calculating commercial sewer bills.

The Low Income Rate offered by Southwest Suburban Sewer District to qualifying households will go up a dollar a month to \$18.00 a month. If you think you may qualify for the reduced rate, please complete the application found on our website and return it to the District along with proof of income. If you prefer, you can call the District and have an application mailed to you. The

website can be found at www.swssd.com.

A \$.50 per month charge went into effect on January 1, 2019 for those accounts where a duplicate bill is being mailed at the owner's request. The charge is to cover the cost of producing and mailing the second bill.

Southwest Suburban Sewer District focuses on providing quality sewer service at an affordable rate. With the new sewer service rate, we will still have the second lowest rates in all of King County, and are still about half of the average sewer service rate in King County.

District Office:

17840 Des Moines Memorial Dr S
Burien, Washington 98148
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.

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:

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

OPEN HOUSE APRIL 13TH

Join us on April 13, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. to see our new Administration and Maintenance Facility. The address is 17840 Des Moines Memorial Drive South in Burien (the former YMCA site).

Tours will be available to view the entire facility, which includes buildings that house maintenance equipment such as vactor trucks and the District's camera truck. The collection system maintenance department moved from their outdated building in Normandy Park, and the administration staff moved from their old location on Ambaum Boulevard.



YOUR SEWER DOLLARS AT WORK

SALMON CREEK WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT UPDATE

Construction has commenced in 2019 on significant improvements to our treatment plant located in the Shorewood area. The “Salmon Creek Solids Handling Project” will replace the circa 1955 undersized solids handling digesters. There will also be major electrical upgrades and improvements, a new emergency generator, new boilers, pumps, valves and more efficient dewatering devices. There will also be a new operations building with an improved laboratory. The remaining building will have seismic improvements and a large concrete retention wall installed at the base of the steep hill to protect the Plant in the event of an earthquake.



Work has begun at the Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant

STREET LIGHT CHARGE ADJUSTED

Most of our customers pay for street lights on their water bill, but in a portion of our district the City of Seattle bills for water service. The city is barred by statute from billing itself for the street light service they provide. In that area, we bill approximately 4,000 of our customers for the street lights in their community, and pay the power bill for the street lights with the funds collected. When Seattle City Light changed to LED light fixtures, we applied for and received a large credit for the bills paid during that transition period. We passed that credit on to those customers by reducing their street light charge from \$2.70/month to \$1.00/month effective March 1, 2016. That credit has now been depleted, and we have returned the cost for street light service to \$2.70/month effective January 1, 2019.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

In order to prevent damage to underground utilities, please call and request a free underground utility locate at least two business days before you start digging. You can make that request by either dialing 811 or by going to www.callbeforeyoudig.org. You will need to provide the location where you are planning to dig, and what type of work you will be doing.

The Washington Utility Notification Center will then notify local utilities, who will mark any utilities in the designated area with colored paint (green for sewers). The Center requests that you outline your dig area with white paint to help the utilities identify your dig area quickly and accurately. Failure to call before digging may result in fines or charges for damages.

UPDATE ON KING COUNTY RIGHT-OF-WAY TAX

As we reported to you before, King County Ordinance 2016-0521 was adopted effective January 2018. The County planned to charge “rent” to utility providers for the use of county roads and rights-of-way. It was projected that it could cost ratepayers in the unincorporated portion of our District an additional \$6.00/month on their sewer bill, and the County anticipated raising \$10,000,000 per year for the County General Fund.

Twenty-one Water and Sewer Districts jointly opposed the ordinance, and mounted a legal defense against a lawsuit filed by the County in an attempt to enforce implementation of the ordinance. In August of 2018, King County Superior Court issued a ruling in favor of the utility districts. King County intends to appeal the judgement. We will keep our ratepayers apprised of any developments in this ongoing dispute.