

SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN SEWER DISTRICT

January 2010



Ratepayer News

REPORT ON YOUR SEWER DISTRICT

Inside this issue:

Report on Your Sewer District	1
What Does Your Sewer Bill Pay For?	1
Condition of Treatment Plants and Infrastructure	2
Employee per customer Ratio	2
Sewer Rate Comparisons	3
Long Term Goals and Commitments	4
Public Hearing on Sewer Rates	4

Southwest Suburban Sewer District's (SWSSD) service area covers approximately 13.1 square miles. The District owns, operates and maintains a 270 mile domestic wastewater collection system and two secondary wastewater treatment plants treating approximately 5.5 million gallons per day within the incorporated cities of Burien, Normandy Park, Des Moines, SeaTac, Seattle and unincorporated King County. We provide sewer service for approximately 28,000 Residential Equivalent Units (REU's), which included residential, commercial, apartments, schools and wholesale customers.

SWSSD's Board of Commissioners consists of three representatives elected to six year terms. Tony Genzale was recently re-elected by

ratepayers to a second term on the Board, where he serves along with Commissioners William "Bill" Tracy and Scott Hilsen.



Commissioners Tony Genzale, Bill Tracy and Scott Hilsen (l to r)

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:

www.swssd.com

You are invited to attend the monthly Board of Commissioners meetings at the District Office on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Commissioners:

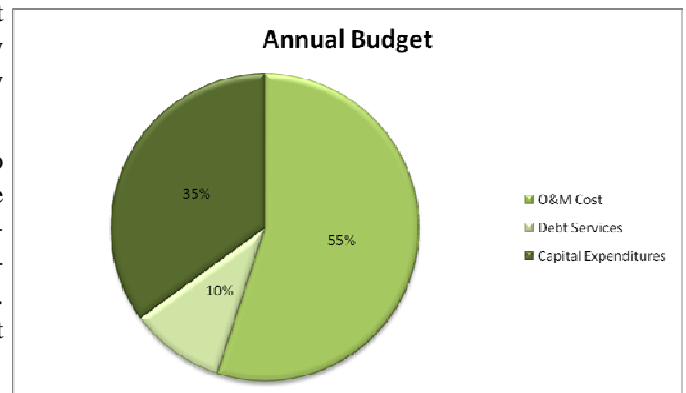
William Tracy, President
Tony Genzale, Vice-President
Scott Hilsen, Secretary

WHAT DOES YOUR SEWER BILL PAY FOR?

SWSSD generates approximately 7.5 million dollars per year of revenue. The majority of this income (approximately 85%) comes from you the ratepayer via your bi-monthly sewer bill. The other 15% comes from wholesale customers, permit fees, interest on investments, general facility charges, and local facility charges.

55% of the revenue goes to Operations and Maintenance (O&M) of two wastewater treatment plants, the collection system and administrative cost. 10% of the revenue goes to Debt Service, paying Public

Works Trust Fund Loans and issued Bonds. The remaining 35% is for Capital Expenditures (a maintenance fund for capital improvement projects).



CONDITION OF TREATMENT PLANTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Because the Burien/White Center area is an older established neighborhood, the majority of the sewer lines are made from concrete and some clay. This type of material has a life expectancy of 50 years and the majority of these older sewer pipes were installed in the 1950's. Today's sewer pipe material is made mostly of PVC and ductile iron and has a much longer life.

Many of these older lines need to be replaced or repaired over the next decade before they fail. Flowing wastewater slowly deteriorates the concrete pipes; some sewer gases are corrosive to concrete over time, and tree roots enter sewer pipes at pipe joints in an effort to find water. These tree roots eventually plug the sewer line and quite often crack the concrete pipe. Please refer to the District's website at www.swssd.com to see a map of completed and planned line rehabilitation projects.



“Because the Burien/White Center area is an older established neighborhood, the majority of sewer lines are made from concrete and some clay. This type of material has a life expectancy of 50 years and the majority of the older sewer pipes were installed in the 1950's.”



Miller Creek Treatment Plant



Salmon Creek Treatment Plant

The two treatment plant buildings, tanks and many of the structures were constructed in the 1950's and are showing signs of wear and need to be repaired and/or upgraded. Portions of the plants were upgraded in the late 1980's, but it's important to understand that the treatment plants mostly consist of pumps, motors, mechanical equipment, electrical and electronic components that run 24 hours per day and 7 days per week.

What this means is that we have some equipment that has been running for more than 175,000 hours. Staff has performed an exceptional job in maintaining the aging equipment, but it's not unlike your own home . . . sometimes we need to replace our leaking roof or worn out washer or dryer, refrigerator, furnace and vehicles. The District needs to replace some of the tired, out-of-date equipment.

HOW DOES SWSSD COMPARE TO OTHER DISTRICTS ON THE AMOUNT OF CUSTOMERS PER EMPLOYEE?

In a statewide survey conducted recently comparing the amount of customers per employee for Wastewater Districts that also have wastewater treatment plants, SWSSD had the highest amount of customers served per employee. The statewide average is 517 customers per employee. SWSSD has 848 customers per employee. This means that SWSSD has 33 employees serving 28,000 customers. Furthermore, SWSSD is one of only two districts in the state that operates two wastewater treatment plants. Having two wastewater treatment plants requires two full treatment plant crews. SWSSD's staff works very hard at being as efficient and effective at their individual jobs as possible. We are very proud to efficiently run and operate a sewer district this size with the amount of employees we have.



HOW DO SWSSD RATES COMPARE TO OTHER DISTRICTS?

As you can see in the chart below, SWSSD sewer rates are the second lowest in King County. Your sewer rates are less than half the average sewer rate in all of King County.

SWSSD strives to provide efficient and effective service to our customers at the lowest price possible. Both of our treatment plants receive "Outstanding Performance" awards from the Department of Ecology on a regular basis. We have crews out every day maintaining sewer lines and pump stations to assure that when you flush or pour something down the drain, you have no worries.

<i>AGENCY:</i>	<i>PHONE NO.</i>	2007	2008	2009
		RATE	RATE	RATE
SEATTLE	206-684-3000	\$ 55.88	\$ 58.13	\$ 66.68
MERCER ISLAND	206-236-3560	\$ 52.14	\$ 54.55	\$ 58.60
SKYWAY	206-772-7343	\$ 50.65	\$ 50.65	\$ 55.51
BELLEVUE	425-452-2977	\$ 43.25	\$ 44.30	\$ 55.14
KIRKLAND	425-587-3150	\$ 50.22	\$ 51.17	\$ 55.12
WOODINVILLE	425-483-9104	\$ 48.31	\$ 49.33	\$ 53.28
NE SAMMAMISH	425-868-1144	\$ 47.98	\$ 47.98	\$ 51.93
BLACK DIAMOND	253-631-0351	\$ 44.23	\$ 46.83	\$ 50.92
ISSAQUAH	425-837-3050	\$ 45.96	\$ 45.96	\$ 49.91
SAMMAMISH PLATEAU	425-392-6256	\$ 44.15	\$ 44.15	\$ 49.69
CEDAR RIVER W & S	425-255-6370	\$ 44.85	\$ 45.35	\$ 49.30
RENTON	425-430-6852	\$ 43.18	\$ 44.06	\$ 49.23
VASHON SEWER	206-463-9219	\$ 49.00	\$ 49.00	\$ 49.00
COAL CREEK	425-235-9200	\$ 40.86	\$ 40.86	\$ 48.63
SOOS CREEK	253-630-9900	\$ 42.75	\$ 42.75	\$ 47.45
LAKE FOREST PARK	206-368-5440	\$ 40.01	\$ 41.09	\$ 45.83
KENT	253-856-5201	\$ 38.85	\$ 41.76	\$ 44.89
REDMOND	425-556-2152	\$ 38.89	\$ 39.54	\$ 44.19
TUKWILA	206-433-0179	\$ 36.75	\$ 38.07	\$ 43.54
RONALD W/W MGMT. (Shoreline)	206-546-2494	\$ 38.84	\$ 39.14	\$ 43.05
AUBURN	253-931-3038	\$ 37.76	\$ 37.76	\$ 42.92
ALDERWOOD	425-743-4605	\$ 35.86	\$ 39.94	\$ 42.34
ALGONA	253-833-2741	\$ 37.07	\$ 37.07	\$ 41.02
VALLEY VIEW SEWER DISTRICT	206-242-3236	\$ 34.95	\$ 34.95	\$ 40.90
NORTHSHORE	425-398-4400	\$ 38.00	\$ 38.75	\$ 40.75
LAKEHAVEN *	253-941-1516	\$ 22.46	\$ 23.81	\$ 25.51
SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN SEWER DISTRICT*	206-244-9575	\$ 19.50	\$ 21.50	\$ 21.50
MIDWAY *	206-824-4960	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 20.00
AVERAGE		\$ 40.73	\$ 44.13	\$ 48.79

*Own their treatment plants

LONG TERM GOALS AND COMMITMENTS

SWSSD is committed to always providing quality service at the lowest price possible, while taking a proactive approach to maintaining and upgrading our sewer lines and treatment plants. This can only be accomplished by keeping plant equipment updated and continuing to address rehabilitation of old decaying sewer lines. The longer we put these projects off, the more it's going to

cost in the long run. For the ratepayer's benefit, we need to spend a little each year on rehabilitation work to assure that the next generation is not burdened with complete replacement cost. It is important to maintain revenue levels that assure that this commitment continues through the years to come. Part of responsible stewardship of the District is reviewing rates

periodically to ensure that the District's current needs are being met, as well as these ongoing rehabilitation projects.

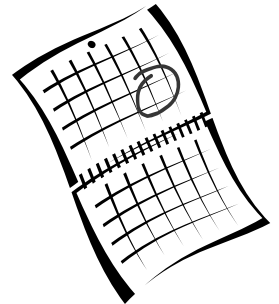
As indicated in this newsletter, SWSSD has always been dedicated to low sewer rates and will continue to provide quality service at some of the lowest sewer rates in King County.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED REGARDING SEWER RATES

Does SWSSD need to consider raising sewer rates? The answer is yes. As mentioned in this newsletter, SWSSD runs a pretty "tight ship". With the second lowest rates in King County and approximately 40% fewer employees than other districts with treatment plants, SWSSD takes every measure to assure that your money is being spent wisely and efficiently. Unfortunately, to properly operate a District this size and responsibly keep up with upgrades and rehabilitation of lines, we need to spend a little more than we are currently taking in.

The District has scheduled a Public Hearing on February 2, 2010 to give you an opportunity to share your opinions and ask questions. You may also contact the District office via phone or email at (206) 244-9575 and info@swssd.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FEBRUARY 2, 2010



431 SW Ambaum Boulevard
Burien, Washington 98166

Phone: 206-244-9575

Fax: 206-433-8546

www.swssd.com