



King County Water District 90

Fall 2018

Newsletter

Calendar

Board of Commissioner
Meetings (4:30pm)
First and Third
Tuesdays at the
District Office

Commissioners

Dick Gidner
President
Sam Amira
Vice President
Byron Murgatroyd
Secretary

Contact Us

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Darcey J. Peterson
District Manager
Joshua Drummond
Operations Manager
Doug Swanson
Finance Manager

Check out our website at:
www.kcwd90.com

Pay your bill online
or by phone at:
www.kcwd90.com
1-855-984-1191

Court Rules on Rent to Utilities for Use of Rights-of-Way

KING COUNTY, WA — On August 1, 2018, King County Superior Court Judge Samuel Chung issued an oral ruling granting summary judgment to water, sewer and electric utilities that King County cannot charge the utilities rent for the use of county roads and rights-of-way. A formal order reflecting the Court's decision will be prepared and presented to the Court in the near future.

On November 7, 2016, the King County Council adopted Ordinance 18403 purporting to authorize the imposition and collection of "rent" from water, sewer, gas and electric utilities using county roads and rights-of-way. The County anticipated the Ordinance would generate \$10,000,000 per year for the County's general fund. On December 29, 2017, King County's Facilities Management Division adopted Rules for Determining Franchise Compensation intended to implement the Ordinance. The Rules went into effect on January 29, 2018.

On January 25, 2018, King County filed a lawsuit in King County Superior Court (Case No. 18-2-02238-0 SEA) against 21 water-sewer districts that had opposed the County's adoption of the Ordinance and Rules. The County sought a declaratory judgment that the Ordinance and Rules were valid. The water-sewer districts filed counter-claims against the County challenging the validity of the Ordinance and Rules, including a claim that water-sewer districts have the right to locate their facilities in county roads and rights-of-way without having to pay rent to the County. A group of non-profit water associations and an electric utility intervened in the lawsuit and also challenged the County's ability to charge rent for their use of county roads and rights-of-way. The Court granted the motions for summary judgment filed by the water-sewer districts and the intervenors and ruled that the County cannot charge rent for the use of county roads and rights-of-way. *Article prepared by Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts, Blair Burroughs, Interim Executive Director.*

Construction Update

Wondering why the West Lake Kathleen Water Main Improvement Project has not started yet? So are we! The District had hoped to start construction of this project in the spring of this year. Unfortunately, the Legislature's delay in approving the Washington State Capital Budget caused our loan to be delayed. Washington State provides 12.5% of the loan amount or about \$270,000. The District went out to bid in July of 2018 and awarded the contract to R.W. Scott Construction as of August 21, 2018. Construction will begin in September and go through the winter months. Ratepayers around the project area were invited to attend a project information meeting early in September.

Doug Swanson, New Finance Manager for KCWD90

King County Water District No. 90 (KCWD90) is pleased to welcome Doug Swanson to our team. Doug came to work for us in April of 2018 as our Finance Manager. He is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University with a degree in Business Administration with an emphasis on Finance and Accounting. Doug is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Mr. Swanson brings 25+ years of utility and government knowledge and experience to our team. He has held positions as a CPA, Accountant, Senior Business Analyst, and a Senior Finance Manager. He has worked for PACCAR, Washington Natural Gas Company, Puget Sound Energy, and Tacoma Public Utilities before he arrived at KCWD90.

His goals are to incorporate the District's Core Value and Mission Statement into his work along with bringing the District up to speed with innovative approaches, time and money saving abilities, and ideas to streamline processes and procedures.



"We are incredibly fortunate to have him on our team. Not only does he bring his experience and expertise, he brings a calm demeanor, collaborative and servant-leadership approach, and customer problem-solving skills to this position," says District Manager, Darcey Peterson.

What he enjoys about the District... *"I can't say enough about this great community, I appreciate a shorter commute, and the combined efforts from all the staff to make this a great place to work!"*

In his free time, Doug loves to spend time with his family paddleboarding, hiking, and golfing. He admits that it's hard to pass up a Maple bar from Chuck's Donut Shop.

Annual Report on Senior Citizen and Permanently Disabled Discount Rate

In the seventh year of the program, KCWD90 has 53 customers participating in our "Low Income Rate for Senior Citizens and Permanently Disabled" Discount Rate Program. The total cost to the District for the seventh year of this program (July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018) was \$9,455 (compared to \$9,194 in the sixth year). Customers who qualify for the discount program pay a base rate of \$22.70 rather than the full base rate of \$54.15. Consumption charges and the Summer Surcharge are at the regular rate.

The *Application for Reduction in Water Rates* form can be found on our website at www.kcwd90.com under Applications or for more information, call the District office at 425 255-9600.

Do you qualify? Here are the requirements that all need to be met:

- You or your spouse are 55-years of age or older, OR permanently disabled.
- You are living in the residence and pay the water bill.
- Your gross income from all sources is under \$22,000 if single and \$27,000 if married.