



King County Water District 90

Spring 2019

Newsletter

Calendar

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

Commissioners

Sam Amira
President
Byron Murgatroyd
Vice President
Dick Gidner
Secretary

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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

Construction Update

The West Lake Kathleen Water Main Improvement Project is about half-way complete. This project replaces about 1 ½ miles of undersized and leaky steel water main with Ductile Iron water main. So far, the water main along the west side of Lake Kathleen is complete. The next phase will be replacement of the water main on Lake Kathleen Road Southeast starting at SE 134th Street and moving north to SE 128th Street. Final road overlay for all sections will be completed by early summer 2019.



Note: The contractor, RW Scott Construction, is required to provide you advance notification of planned property access and water service interruptions.

Meter Replacement Program

The District began a four year meter replacement program in January of 2019. The majority of the District's current water meters are older than the recommended 20 years. As meters get older they tend to slowdown and under-register. The new style meters read the flow rate with sound waves and will not under-register as they age. In addition, the new style meters collect additional data regarding when and how much water is used. These reports are very helpful when it comes to reviewing changes in consumption. The new style meters transmit the read by radio frequency (rf) to the District's receiver as we drive by your house once every 60 days.

Here is what you can expect:

- Homeowners do not need to do anything to prepare for this work.
- There will be no additional cost to the customer to install the new meters.
- Installation of the new meter should take no more than 20 minutes in most cases.
- If District staff needs to turn your water off, they will knock on your door and let you know.
- You may see a slight increase in consumption with the new style meter, the benefit is that small leaks (i.e. a dripping faucet) are more likely to show on your bill and can be addressed before they become big leaks.
- Ultrasonic Wireless smart meters result in much smaller levels of radio frequency (rf) exposure than many common household electronic devices, particularly cell phones and microwave ovens.
 - For more information on rf frequency safety please see: <https://www.kcwd90.com/forms/000177.pdf>



The Neptune MACH 10® ultrasonic water meter features solid state metrology with no degradation of accuracy over time. Combined with a corrosion-resistant, lead-free, high-copper alloy maincase, the MACH 10 is built to withstand demanding service conditions and deliver sustained accuracy over the life of the meter.

Water Rates

The District increased water rates effective January 1, 2019, by about 3.1%. The increase is necessary to fund higher operating costs and is about equal to the 2018 Seattle area CPI increase. Below is a summary of 2019 rates for residential customers. The full rate sheet is located here:

<https://www.kcwd90.com/forms/000176.pdf>.

	2018 Rate	2019 Rate
Current Water Rates (bimonthly)	Residential	Residential
Base Rate for 5/8" meter	\$ 54.15	\$ 55.85
Consumption Charge per 100* cubic feet		
0 to 5 Ccf's	Included	Included
6 to 15 Ccf's	\$ 3.20	\$ 3.30
16 to 25 Ccf's	\$ 3.65	\$ 3.75
26+ Ccf's	\$ 4.35	\$ 4.50
Summer Surcharge (June - Oct only)	\$ 0.80	\$ 0.80
*100 cf = 1 Ccf = 748 gallons		

What is a Summer Surcharge?

The District purchases most of its water from Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). To encourage conservation in the warmer months SPU increases the wholesale cost for consumption by 20% during the summer months. During the months of June through October, the increase is reflected on your bill as a summer surcharge. To save money and keep costs down, check out our conservation web page for both indoor and outdoor tips: <https://www.savingwater.org/>

Do you qualify for the District's discount program?

The District offers a discount on the base rate for customers over 55 with income under \$27,000 (for a family) and \$22,000 (for a single). Customers under 55 that are permanently disabled and low income can also qualify for the discount. Find the application and complete guidelines at: <https://www.kcwd90.com/forms/000168.pdf> or call 425-255-9600.

Update on KCWD90 vs. King County Proposed Right of Way Tax.

In August of 2018, the District prevailed in King County Superior Court in their initial fight against King County's new tax scheme. You may remember that King County passed Ordinance 18403 in December of 2016 that added an estimated \$5.00 per month tax on water, sewer, and power services to households in unincorporated areas of King County.

This tax could impact customers by about \$180 per year (for all 3 utilities) and is anticipated to raise revenue for King County of \$10 million dollars annually.

From the beginning, 21 Special Purpose Water and Sewer Districts have joined together to fight King County over this illegal tax. King County recently filed an appeal with the Washington Supreme Court. We are waiting to hear if the WA Supreme Court will hear this case and we have vowed to continue to fight this unfair tax.



The Mission of KCWD90 is to provide safe and reliable drinking water to District Customers at a reasonable rate.

What we Value:

- 1) **Communication:** We take responsibility to accurately and effectively convey information with respect and empathy. We are courteous and empathetic toward our customers and co-workers alike.
- 2) **Teamwork:** Each day, we work cooperatively toward the District's established goals. We cultivate a culture of respect through every interaction by listening with intent to understand each other and our customers' needs.
- 3) **Customer Service:** Together, we build good customer relationships by meeting customer's needs with respect and care. We are responsible to internal and external customer needs using exceptional customer service skills.
- 4) **Professionalism:** We are all part of one team and we work together as a group of highly-qualified and skilled staff that take initiative and can adapt to any situation.
- 5) **Stewardship:** All staff is encouraged to care for District resources with foresight, integrity and accountability. We each take initiative to establish credibility and good faith amount those with whom we service and with whom we work.

Please Keep Meters Clear

Please help us maintain access to your meter. Be sure bushes, branches and other plants are trimmed around the meter box area. Please keep cars, garbage cans and other objects off the meter box. Clear access means that our Field staff can quickly and safely access your meter, which helps keep utility costs down and rates stable.