



King County Water District 90

WATER NOTES & DRIPS

Summer 2012

Calendar

Board of
Commissioner
Meetings (4:45pm)
First and Third
Tuesdays
At the District Office

Commissioners

Dick Gidner
President
Byron Murgatroyd
Vice President
Sam Amira
Secretary

Contact Us

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Thomas Hoffman
District Manager
Joshua Deraitus
Operations Manager

Darcey Peterson
Finance Manager

Check out our
website at:
www.kcwd90.com

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FINANCE MANAGER...

Hello my name is Darcey Peterson and I have had the pleasure of being the Finance Manager here at the District for the past 11 years. I wanted to take this opportunity to give you, our rate payers, some background information about how the District is managed.

You may not realize that as a rate payer you are actually an "owner" of the Water District. It is this "ownership" that allows you to vote for one of your Water District Elected Officials every two years. Legally we are classified as a municipal corporation, but in actuality we look more like a non-profit than anything else. Our goal at the Water District is not to make a profit, in fact it is not uncommon for the District to simply "break even" or experience a small loss in any given year. Every dollar received in your water rates is put right back into the Water District for operations as well as capital improvements. Drinking water is all we do!



Over the past 11 years the District has seen an incredible amount of growth, this has allowed the District to vigorously replace rotting steel water main, add wells, and continue updating and upgrading District reservoirs, pump stations, and PRV's (Pressure Reducing Valves). During this period the District has replaced over 20 miles of water main. In addition we were able to save \$3 million dollars to pay for our new Administration and Operations buildings.

Overall your Water District is run in a very conservative manner. Your Commissioners and Management team aggressively look for ways to keep your costs down while at the same time providing you with excellent quality drinking water. For example, when the economy started to slow down in 2008, your Commissioners were quick to prepare a main replacement job that could be "shovel ready" so that we could take advantage of infrastructure stimulus money if it became available. Although stimulus money never materialized the District was in a position to take advantage of a more competitive bidding environment and saved a substantial amount of money on the construction of the 2009 Main Replacement Project. Since that time, the District has actively sought partnerships with both the City of Renton and King County to replace water mains just before the City or County replaces the road surface in order to minimize these costs. Two of these projects will be completed this summer.

During this past year, the District has added On-Line bill pay as well as Pay by Phone (see back for more information) to provide increased convenience and accessibility to our customers. Additionally I am delighted to report on our first year of Low Income Reduced rates. If you have any questions or would like to talk about the District's finances, please feel free to call me anytime at 425-255-9600. Thank you, Darcey Peterson

PAY-BY-PHONE and ON-LINE BILL PAY AVAILABLE NOW!!!

PAY BY PHONE - JUST CALL 1-855-560-5615. Customers who wish to pay their bill over the phone will enter our automated voice response system by entering their account number and confirming with your mailing address (not your service address although for most customers they are the same). Customers can hear their current account balance and make a payment using a credit card or eCheck. There is a \$3.55 fee for this service.

ONLINE BILL PAY - GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT: www.kcwd90.com Customers can make quick, secure payments to their account online using a credit card or eCheck. These services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Payments post to your account immediately, exactly as if the payment was made at the counter. There is a \$3.55 fee for this service.

Customers who wish to pay their bill online have the option of making a "Quick Payment" to their account by entering their account number or they may choose to "Register" an account for added features. Registering an account allows customers to manage payment, notification, and billing preferences; make payments with credit card or eCheck; and log in quickly without having to remember their account number. Customers who register an account will also be able to link and pay multiple accounts with a single payment.

DRAFT PAY - AKA AUTOPAY: Your water bill can be deducted directly from your bank account on the due date at no cost. This option has been available to District customers for many years and works seamlessly. Applications are available on our website: www.kcwd90.com

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF LOW INCOME AND DISABLED RATES

On May 17, 2011 the KCWD90 Commissioners approved Resolution 931 establishing a low-income rate for senior citizens and permanently disabled customers. That resolution set the qualifying customer's bi-monthly base water rate to \$20 rather than \$40 in 2011 or \$45 in 2012.

In the first year KCWD 90 had 24 customers participate in the reduced rate program. The District is required by statute to report to our customers annually the cost of this program. The total cost to the District for the first year of this program was \$2,620.

At the end of the first full year, District commissioners have reviewed the policy and made some minor revisions. Do you qualify? Here are the requirements:

- You or your spouse is 55 years or older OR is permanently disabled
- You are living in the residence and pay the water bill
- Your gross income from all sources is \$22,000 if single and \$27,000 if married.
(Note: income for single had been increased from \$20,000 to \$22,000)

Applications for the reduced rate program can be found on our website at www.kcwd90.com or call the office at 425-255-9600 for more information.