



King County Water District 90

Summer 2021

Newsletter

Calendar

Board of Commissioner
Meetings (2:30pm)
First and Third
Tuesdays at the
District Office

Commissioners

Pete Eberle
President
Sam Amira
Vice President
Al Materi
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

Earthquake Preparedness

Is King County Water District No. 90 prepared for the “Big One?” The short answer is “No,” but we are working on it. Here is what we are working on:

In 2021, the District joined the “Shake Alert” early warning system. The Shake Alert monitoring device added to the District office will work with the other 394 stations in Washington (plus additional stations in Oregon and California) to provide a few seconds to a full minute advanced earthquake notice. This will provide enough time for the District to shut down pumps and reservoirs in advance of the earthquake to minimize the effects of shaking on the equipment. In the future, customers will be able to get similar advance warning through the “my shake alert app” (find it at the App Store or Google Play).

KCWD90 also joined the Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network (PSERN) in 2021. PSERN is a new public safety network that is being implemented to expand the current King County Emergency Radio Communication System. PSERN will be utilized by law enforcement and emergency personnel to effectively communicate during emergency situations.

In April of 2021, the District was awarded a \$1.1 million FEMA grant to seismically upgrade the Pump Stations in High Valley (Pump Stations 4, 5, & 6). These sites are currently undergoing structural and geotechnical studies so that we can determine what improvements need to be made at each site. Construction on this FEMA grant project will occur in 2022.

The District has recently changed its standards so that all new water main will be “restrained” to reduce the likelihood of pipe segments “pulling apart” during an earthquake event. Furthermore, the District is now allowing High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipe to be installed, especially in high risk areas. HDPE pipe has no joints that can pull apart during an earthquake event and is practically indestructible.

The District is working jointly with our wholesale provider, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), to reinforce or replace the transmission main from Lake Youngs through downtown Renton to the District’s Pump Station #1. This area is a known liquefaction area that could wipe out the District’s primary water supply.

Story continued on back

Earthquake Preparedness (Continued)

One additional step the District is making is to move our well field from Jones Road along the Cedar River to the District office. The Jones Road location is subject to flooding, landslides, and liquefaction. By relocating the well field to the District office, customers would have a more reliable supply of emergency water should we lose our supply from SPU. In December of 2021, KCWD90 will be drilling a test well at the District offices to see if water is available. The District will be seeking a second FEMA grant for 2022-23 to complete the installation of the well field for emergency purposes.

SPU provides 80% of the District's water supply and the other 20% comes from our well field. If an earthquake is large enough (8.0 or greater), **SPU predicts that it may take up to 60 days to restore water to customers and wholesalers.**

What can you do to prepare? Make a plan with your family, create an emergency supply kit, store some drinking water, and most importantly, buy a water filter that can provide enough potable water for your family. Find more info at: <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/emergency-management/preparedness.aspx> or <https://mil.wa.gov/personal>.

COVID-19 Utility Moratorium on Late Fees & Shut-Offs Ends 9/30/21

Governor Inslee's moratorium on disconnections and late fees will end on September 30, 2021. After this date, late fees and shut-offs will be added back to customer accounts. Customers with a past due balance are encouraged to set up a payment plan. As long as payments on the payment plan are kept current, customers will continue to be protected from late fees and shut-offs for up to 18 months. Set up your payment plan online at: <https://www.kcwd90.com/forms-payment-plan.php>. The District is working with the state and King County to provide economic relief for low-income water customers. If you need assistance with your water bill, or if you would like to be informed when help becomes available, check our website regularly or call our office to be added to our list.

Reduced Rate for Qualifying Customers

Our District offers a reduction in water rates to those that qualify. To determine whether you qualify, the following requirements must all be met:

- You or your spouse are 55-years of age or older OR are permanently disabled.
- You are living in the residence and pay the water bill.
- For a single person, your total gross income is under \$35,000; for a married couple, your total gross income is under \$45,000.

Emergency Notifications

Do we have your phone number and/or email address? KCWD90 uses this information for emergency or shut-off notifications, and we do not share or sell your information. To update your contact information, email the District office at info@kcwd90.com or call us at (425) 255-9600.