



King County Water District 90

Winter 2023

Newsletter

Calendar

Board of Commissioner
Meetings (1:00pm)
First and Third
Tuesdays at the
District Office

Commissioners

Al Materi
President

Pete Eberle
Vice President

Sam Amira
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

2023 RATE INCREASE ANNOUNCEMENT

King County Water District No. 90 (the District) worked with a rate consultant in 2022 to complete a Rate Study and a 20-year Capital Spending Plan. These efforts revealed that the 20-year Capital Spending Plan is short \$200,000 per year. On average, the District spends about \$3 million per year on capital projects, such as replacing mains, upgrading pump stations, tank painting, etc. In the past, the District depended on growth to help offset these costs. However, for the first time in District history, we lost customers in 2022. (Five customers were transferred to the City of Renton, and three new houses were added, for a net decrease of two connections). The District is at the point where more of the funds for capital projects must come from rates. The 2023 budget includes just over 20% (almost \$1.5 million) of revenues transferred to the capital program.

District staff aggressively look for grants and low-interest loans to help offset these costs. For example, in 2021, the District was awarded \$1.1 million from a FEMA Grant to upgrade three of our Pump Stations. That work will continue through 2023. In addition, Washington State's Public Work Trust Fund (PWTF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) provide loan funding for capital projects at an interest rate of 1%-2.5%. The District has also worked to lower costs with leak detection, new meters, and lower-cost pipe replacement methods.

All rates will increase starting with the January 2023 bills. Bi-monthly residential base rates will increase by \$4.00 to \$70.90 (\$2.00 per month), and the usage tiers will increase to \$4.35 (6-15 CCFs), \$5.00 (16-25 CCFs), \$5.65 (26 - 35 CCF's). In addition, we have added a fifth tier; usage over 36 CCFs will be \$6.30. The average winter rate increase for low-water users is 6%, the average winter rate increase for higher users will be closer to 9%.

Beginning in 2022, the Summer Surcharge fee is applied to every CCF used during the summer months. The Summer Surcharge applies to all bills in June, July, August, and September of each year.

The District has a Low-Income Assistance Program for those over 55 or who are permanently disabled. No changes have been made to the low-income rate for 2023. You may qualify if your income is below \$35,000 for a single person and \$45,000 for a family. Please visit our website at www.kcwd90.com for more information. The Low-Income Application is located under the "Pay My Bill" tab. The rates for all categories of users have increased and the 2023 Schedule of Charges is available at the District office or on our website www.kcwd90.com.

Consumption Rate Schedule

Tiers in Ccf's	Old Rate	New Rate	Summer Rate
0-5	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1.25
6-15	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.35	\$ 5.60
16-25	\$ 4.55	\$ 5.00	\$ 6.25
26 - 35	\$ 5.35	\$ 5.65	\$ 6.90
35+	\$ 0.00	\$ 6.30	\$ 7.55
One CCF is equal to 100 cubic feet of water or 748 gallons.			

Community Reader Board Coming in 2023

In 2021, the King County Council approved Executive Constantine's new approach to community investment—one that's centered on racial equity. It gave people who live, work, play, or worship in the county's five urban unincorporated areas a chance to directly choose how more than \$11 million in county funds will be spent in their communities. Specifically, the process allows community members to identify, discuss, and prioritize public spending. Residents help decide how to spend money on capital projects (physical things that are bought, built, installed, or fixed up) or programs and services.



Sample Reader Board

Leading the effort were the 21 appointed members (residents) of King County's first Community Investment Budget Committee. We were fortunate to have Debi Eberle, wife of Commissioner Pete Eberle, represent the interests of East Renton. Residents of Unincorporated King County Identified 47 projects in the areas of East Renton, East Federal Way, Fairwood, Skyway, and White Center. The public vote was open to anyone 12 years or older who lives, works, attends school, or worships in these areas. More than 2,600 ballots were cast, and 45 projects were funded as a result. The East Renton approved projects include:

- Revive our Basketball Court at Maplewood Park (\$100,000)
- Home Repair Fund (\$100,000)
- Cemetery Pond: Acquisition – Critical Green Infrastructure (\$50,000)
- Cemetery Pond and Wetland: Upgrade Public Access and Amenities (\$35,000)

Originally, the project to install a Community Reader Board at the District Office did not get enough votes to qualify for funding. However, there were some funds remaining in East Renton and East Federal Way. The Federal Way group graciously agreed to transfer enough unspent money to the Reader Board project, allowing the project to be approved. In 2023 the District will receive approximately \$40,000 in grant funds to install a Community Reader Board to help inform the community of important information, emergencies, community events, and more. This reader board will be installed in front of the District office at 15606 SE 128th Street. As the year progresses, we will be looking for District customers to participate in preparing a policy for using the reader board. We are looking forward to this process beginning and will keep you informed as we go. More information on the participatory budgeting process can be found at King County's Local Services website.

A Few Reminders for You

- The District offers free **"Savvy Gardener" classes** each year. Our 2023 series begins in May. Visit our website at www.kcwd90.com for more information on the series in February.
- **Planning to move this year?** Stopping your service is as easy as filling in the blanks! We have a Stop/Start Service form you can fill in online that starts the process of closing your account. Visit www.kcwd90.com.
- Do we have your **current phone number**? We use your number to notify you of water emergencies, construction shutdowns, potential leaks, and shut-offs for non-payment. Be sure we can reach you!

Leak Notifications

Over the past four years, the District has upgraded most of our meters. The new meters have extremely sensitive leak detection capabilities. Even a slow drip in the faucet will trigger a leak warning. A leak warning is triggered if water is continuously flowing through the meter at least once every 15 minutes. District staff is working hard to notify customers on the leak report sooner than in the past. It is important that we have current email addresses and phone numbers so that these notifications are received. Before you hire a plumber or a contractor to fix your leak, it is a good idea to determine the location and size of the leak. You can always contact the office for more information at info@kcwd90.com or 425-255-9600.