



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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www.kcwd90.com

Darcey J. Peterson
District Manager

Joshua Drummond
Operations Manager

Michelle Hall
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

2024 RATE INCREASE ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be NO rate increase for Residential customers in 2024.

There will be Base Rate increases for our Commercial, Fire, and Irrigation Customers. Please note that some Residential Customers also have Fire, Irrigation, or Domestic/Fire Combined accounts; base rates for these accounts will increase. Due to an increase from Puget Sound Energy, there will be a small increase for customers with street light charges. The Street light rate will increase from \$2.75 per month to \$3.25 per month. Also, a new rate was added in 2024 for the Low-Income Mobile Home Park (3" meter) at \$204.50.

The proposed base rate increases for Commercial, Fire, and Irrigation customers are based on meter size. The increased rates are intended to capture the fact that a 3" meter can deliver 10X the water of a 1" meter, and a 6" meter can deliver 35X more water than a 1" meter.

Rate increases are necessary because the District is required to plan for and maintain a water system that can serve all customers on the hottest day of the year and handle firefighting at the same time. Commercial, Fire, and Irrigation customers' water usage can fluctuate considerably from month to month and year to year, increasing the potential demand on the District's system. In order to continue to provide water at the necessary levels, the District will need to add a new reservoir in the next 10-15 years. The 2024 rate increase on Commercial, Fire, and irrigation accounts will help the District fund this goal.

The District has 7,942 residential accounts, 66 fire accounts, 55 commercial accounts, and 110 irrigation accounts for a total of 8,173 accounts.

Annual Report on Senior Citizen & Permanently Disabled Discount Rate

KCWD90 had 91 customers participating in our "Low-Income Rate for Senior Citizens or Permanently Disabled" Discount Rate Program. The total cost to the District for the 12th year of this program (July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023) was **\$23,263**. Customers who qualify for the discount program pay a base rate of \$26.25 rather than the full base rate of \$70.90. Consumption charges and the Summer Surcharge after the first 5 ccfs are charged in addition to the base rate.

The application for Reduction in Water Rates form can be found on our website at www.kcwd90.com under Customers/Online Forms. For more information, call the District office at 425-255-9600.

Do you qualify? Here are the requirements that **all** must be met:

- You or your spouse is 55 years of age or older OR permanently disabled.
- You are living in the residence and paying the water bill.
- Your gross income from all sources in the household is under \$35,000 if single and \$45,000 if married.



Beginning December 1, 2023, the District office will be closed on Fridays. District staff will be moving to a 4/10 schedule. This means working 10 hours per day, Monday through Friday. To offset the reduced hours, the District office hours Monday through Friday will be extended. New Office Hours will be 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (versus 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). We are hopeful this change will increase employee satisfaction and retention. We have great employees and we want to keep them!

KCWD90's Updated LEAK ADJUSTMENT POLICY

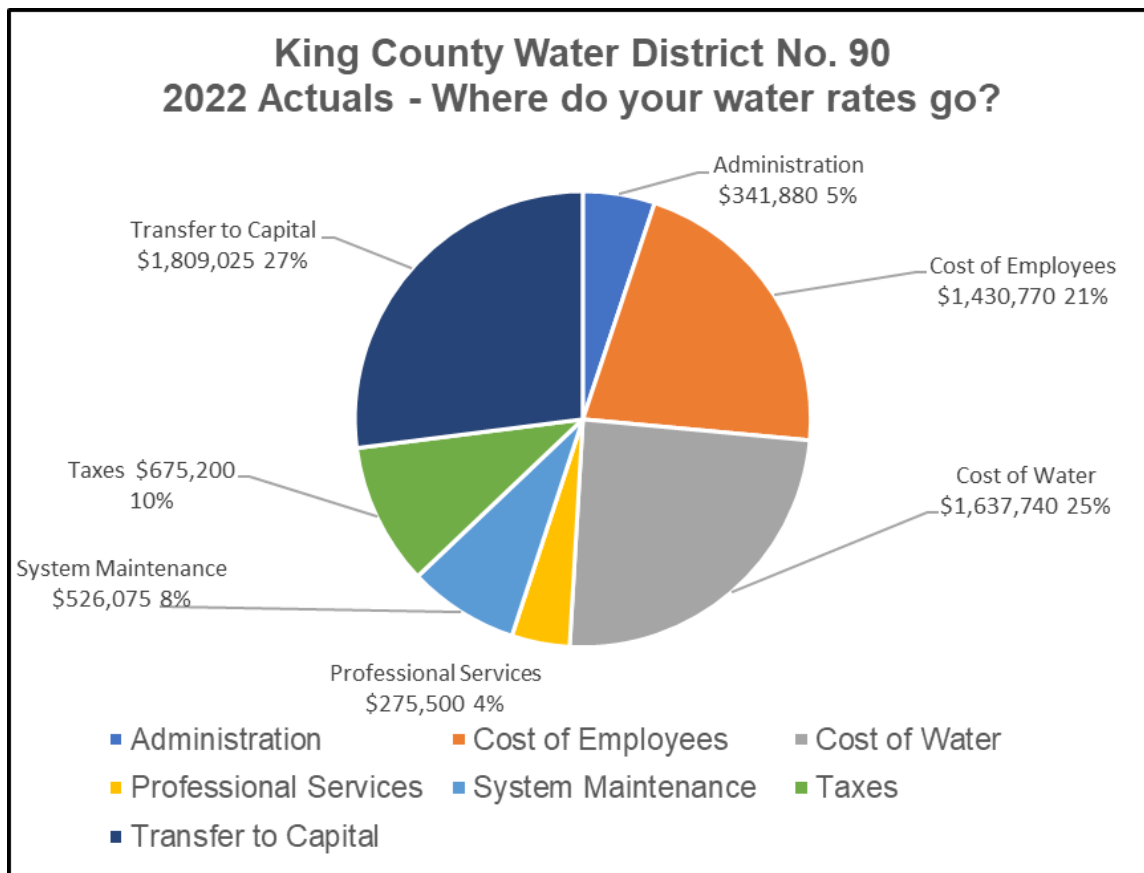
We have heard you! Leaks are a painful and expensive inconvenience... for that reason, the District's Board of Commissioners passed Resolution #1130 on September 19, 2023. The updated leak adjustment policy expands the type of leaks that qualify for leak adjustments. In the past, leak adjustments were only allowed on leaks in the service line from the meter box to the house. Now, all leaks are available for a leak adjustment.

However, it is important to note that a request for a second leak adjustment will only be approved if the entire service line from the meter to the house is replaced and inspected by District personnel. On average, service lines last between 20 and 30 years. Service lines starting to have leaks will only worsen over time. One of the District's goals for the Leak Adjustment Policy is to encourage customers to replace their service line when it is at the end of its useful life.

Other items of note regarding leaks and leak adjustments: There is a new inspection fee of \$50 for field staff to ensure your leak is fixed prior to authorizing a leak adjustment. Leaks should be repaired within 60 days of notification. The District notifies customers of leaks as a courtesy. It is up to the property owner to review their bill for unusual or high billing. You can find our Leak Adjustment Frequently Asked Questions at www.kcwd90.com/forms/001053.pdf

Where Does Your Money GO?

Have you ever wondered how the District spends the revenue we collect? Below is a breakdown of the 2022 expenses. Total Revenue for 2022 is nearly \$7 million. The District's main spending categories include 1) Cost of Employees (includes Commissioners, employees, benefits, and payroll taxes) at 21%, 2) Cost of Water (includes purchases from Seattle Public Utilities and the District's wells) at 26%, 3) Transfer to Capital (to fund main replacement and infrastructure improvements) at 27%, 4) Taxes (State, city and county taxes) at 10%, and 5) Administration (including insurance, software, phones, office maintenance etc.) at 5%.



The long-term goal is to increase the transfer to capital every year. As the District's system gets older and construction costs get more expensive, it will take more funds from our rates to make the necessary repairs and replacements to keep the water system in excellent condition. The District continues to look for grants and other funding when available to help with these costs.