



## **SE May Valley Road Annexation Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) (See annexation area map attached)**

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### **What is the SE May Valley Road Annexation?**

King County Water District No. 90 (KCWD90) is exploring a potential annexation of properties located in the East May Valley area into the District's water service area.

The proposed annexation would allow the District to plan for possible future public water infrastructure improvements, including fire hydrants and domestic water service opportunities.

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### **1. Why is KCWD90 proposing the SE May Valley Road Annexation?**

The District is considering this annexation for several important reasons, including:

- Improving fire protection in the May Valley area through the future installation of fire hydrants.
  - Supporting wildfire preparedness in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), where homes, forests, and vegetation coexist.
  - Providing future public water service opportunities to nearby properties.
  - Offering a future water service option for property owners experiencing well failures or pursuing development opportunities.
  - Supporting possible future coordination with nearby neighborhood systems, including the Four Creeks neighborhood.
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### **2. How does the annexation process work?**

- The proposed annexation is being pursued through the property owner petition method under Washington State law.
  - To move forward, the District must obtain petition signatures representing at least sixty percent of the area of land for which annexation is petitioned, excluding state rights-of-ways, parks, tidelands, lakes, retention ponds, and stream and water courses. RCW 57.24.070.
  - If sufficient support is received, the proposal would proceed through additional public review and approval processes, including:
    - Public notice and comment
    - Environmental review (SEPA)
    - Boundary Review Board review
    - King County Council review and approval
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### **3. Why does this matter to property owners?**

The May Valley area is located within a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), where homes and large wooded areas exist together. Limited access to fire hydrants can create challenges during wildfires or large-structure fires.

Future installation of public water infrastructure and fire hydrants could:

- Improve emergency response capabilities
- Increase fire suppression capacity
- Enhance public safety
- Potentially improve insurance ratings or homeowner insurance availability

However, the impact of insurance would ultimately depend on individual insurance providers and future infrastructure improvements.

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#### **4. When would water mains and fire hydrants be installed?**

This would be a long-term infrastructure project completed in phases over multiple years.

The first step is annexation to the District service area. After that, KCWD90 would pursue grant funding, low-interest loans, partnerships, and future development opportunities to help fund the construction of water mains and fire hydrants along May Valley Road.

At this time, construction timing is uncertain, but the District hopes improvements could occur over the next 5–10 years, depending on funding availability and community interest.

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#### **5. What would this cost property owners?**

At this stage, there is no cost to sign the annexation petition.

The District intends to aggressively pursue grant and other external funding opportunities to reduce future infrastructure costs. If infrastructure is constructed in the future, costs and funding options will be evaluated at that time.

Future water service connections would likely occur incrementally as properties develop, redevelop, or experience issues with private wells.

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#### **6. Would property owners be required to connect to public water?**

No. Connection to future water service would be voluntary unless otherwise required by future health or regulatory conditions.

The purpose of this annexation effort is to improve public safety, create opportunities for future infrastructure, and respond to community interest in expanded water service availability.

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#### **7. What happens next?**

The current phase of the project is the petition process.

KCWD90 has 180 days to collect petition signatures. If sufficient support is received, the annexation proposal would proceed through additional public review and approval processes before any final decision is made.

These steps include:

- Public hearings
  - Environmental review (SEPA)
  - Boundary Review Board review
  - King County Council review and approval
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### **Proposed Annexation Process Timeline**

#### **Phase 1 – Petition Process**

- Property owner outreach
- Petition signature collection

#### **Phase 2 – Public Review**

- Public notice and comment period
- Environmental review (SEPA)

#### **Phase 3 – Government Review**

- Boundary Review Board review
- King County Council consideration

#### **Phase 4 – Future Infrastructure Planning**

- Pursuit of grants and funding
  - Engineering and design
  - Potential future construction of water mains and fire hydrants
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### **Potential Benefits of Annexation**

- Improved wildfire preparedness
- Enhanced emergency response capabilities
- Future fire hydrant availability
- Potential future public water service opportunities
- Increased infrastructure resiliency
- Greater long-term public safety planning

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### **Important Disclaimer**

This FAQ is intended for informational purposes only and does not constitute a commitment by KCWD90 to construct infrastructure or provide water service to any specific property.

Future infrastructure improvements would depend on funding availability, engineering feasibility, regulatory approvals, and future District planning decisions.

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### **Questions?**

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