

# the SOOS CREEK

## CON NECTION

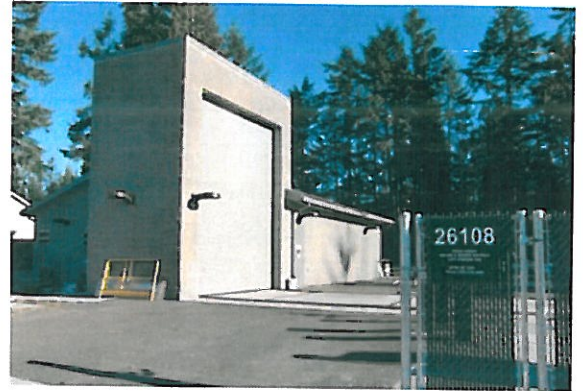
www.sooscreek.com

January/February 2015

### Sewer Lift Station 11B, Covington

The District is nearing completion of Sewer Lift Station 11B. The new station replaces the existing Lift Station 11A, which was built in 1970 and is becoming less reliable and more expensive to maintain. It also provides additional capacity to handle growth in its service areas, which includes Covington and Black Diamond. The new lift station is just north of the old station, near the intersection of SE 262<sup>nd</sup> Street and 184<sup>th</sup> Ave SE. It pumps sewage west along SE 256<sup>th</sup> Street, where it ultimately discharges to a sewage treatment plant in Renton.

The new lift station uses several 175 horsepower pumps located in a concrete vault below ground. Other vaults house valves, flow meters, and an odor control system. An above-grade building houses the electrical power and control systems and additional odor control equipment. The building includes a 'garage' for a portable crane used to lift the pumps up to grade for servicing.



In 2012, Pease & Sons Construction of Tacoma started excavation for the below-grade pump chamber and a tunnel about 400 feet to the south to collect the sewage currently arriving at Lift Station 11A. The project also upgrades the original storm water pond at the site to be a water quality pond with infiltration of runoff, to be owned and maintained by the City of Covington. Once Lift Station 11B is fully operational (planned for January, 2015), the contractor will demolish the buildings and fencing at the old lift station site, grade out the site, and plant grass seed. Final paving of the intersection of SE 262<sup>nd</sup> and 184<sup>th</sup> Ave will have to wait for better paving weather in the spring.

The District's project team appreciates the patience of the neighbors during construction and looks forward to many years of operation of this new facility.

#### Problems With Your Sewer? Call Us First! (But call PSE, too!)

We have previously provided information regarding what to do if you experience problems with your sewer; however, we now have some additional information from PSE. PSE has been including a flyer in their bills "Clearing a blocked sewer? Call PSE first". We suggest you continue to call Soos Creek first, but before having any work done, call PSE at 1-888-225-5773 to have them verify your side sewer is safe to clear. There is the small potential that a gas pipeline was inadvertently inserted through a sewer, called "cross bores", that are safe unless damaged. Additional information including a video can be obtained at [pse.com/sewersafety](http://pse.com/sewersafety).

If you experience problems with your sewer, call the District first before contacting a private service provider. This could potentially save you hundreds of dollars. The District is responsible for the sewer pipe in the street and to your property line. You, as the homeowner or business owner, are responsible for the sewer pipe on your private property. We further recommend that you get a minimum of three bids for any repair job. This simple process could save you money.

If a private company does any work to a sewer line at your home or business, have them call our emergency number at 253-630-9900. We want to inspect such work to ensure that the sewer line on your property and the District's main line are working together properly.

#### SOOS CREEK WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

14616 SE 192nd Street  
P. O. Box 58039  
Renton, WA 98058-1039  
[customer\\_service@sooscreek.com](mailto:customer_service@sooscreek.com)  
Phone: (253) 630-9900  
Fax: (253) 630-5289  
[www.sooscreek.com](http://www.sooscreek.com)

#### COMMISSIONERS

Gary Cline  
Alice Marshall  
Darold Stroud  
Steve Pfaff  
Larry West

#### DISTRICT MANAGER

Ron Speer

Meetings are held the first, third & fourth  
Wednesdays of the month @ 4:30 p.m.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Soos Creek, a public agency, is to provide reliable, high quality water and sewer services in an efficient, cost effective manner.

**2015 WATER AND SEWER RATES**

The Board of Commissioners establishes utility rates on an annual basis. The decision is made after District staff proposes and the Board approves an expenditure budget for the upcoming year. The District held a public hearing to obtain comments on the proposed 2015 water and sewer rates. On December 3, 2014 the Soos Creek Board of Commissioners approved a 1% increase in the monthly base charges and volume charges for water and a 1% increase in Soos Creek’s portion of the sewer rates. King County’s sewage treatment rate is shown as a separate charge on your bill, and will increase in 2015. The increases will be effective with the February 28, 2015 billing cycle.

**Water**

The District will increase water rates for 2015 to fund higher operating costs. Below is an outline of the current rates and the 2015 rates.

<u>CURRENT RATES (BIMONTHLY)</u>	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Irrigation</u>
Base Rate for 3/4" Meter	\$ 27.60	\$ 27.60	\$ 27.60
Volume Charge per 100 Cubic Feet			
Winter Rates:			
0—1,000 cubic feet	1.75	1.75	5.95
1,001—2,000 cubic feet	3.55	3.55	5.95
2,001—3000 cubic feet	4.45	4.45	5.95
> 3,000 cubic feet	5.05	5.05	5.95
 <u>2015 RATES (BIMONTHLY)</u>			
Base Rate for 3/4" Meter	\$ 27.90	\$ 27.90	\$ 27.90
Volume Charge per 100 Cubic Feet			
Winter Rates:			
0—1,000 cubic feet	1.75	1.75	6.00
1,001—2,000 cubic feet	3.60	3.60	6.00
2,001—3000 cubic feet	4.50	4.50	6.00
> 3,000 cubic feet	5.10	5.10	6.00

Notes:

100 cubic feet of water = 748 gallons

Summer Conservation Rates (June—September) include a 20% surcharge (the first 1000 cubic feet are exempt)

**Sewer**

The sewer bills sent to Soos Creek customers itemize the charges for Soos Creek’s sewer rate and King County’s Sewage Treatment charges. The District’s portion of the bill is for the maintenance of our system that collects the sewage from your existing structure (house, business, or school) and conveys it to King County’s system and ultimately to the Renton Treatment Plant. Effective with the February 28, 2015 billing cycle, Soos Creek’s base rate will be \$35.00 (bimonthly) and the Volume Charge for commercial customers will increase to \$2.35 per 100 cubic feet of water in excess of the first 1,500 cubic feet (bimonthly).

The King County Sewage Treatment charge shown on the Soos Creek sewer customer’s bill reflects King County’s capital and operating costs for treatment and disposal of sewage. King County’s sewer rate will increase to \$84.06 (bimonthly) and King County’s Volume Charge for commercial customers will increase to \$5.60 per 100 cubic feet of water in excess of the first 1,500 cubic feet. If you have questions or comments regarding the King County Sewage Treatment charge, contact the King County Council at (206) 296-1000; for sewage treatment information, call (206) 684-1280.

**NEW DROP BOX AVAILABLE**

In a continuing effort to make additional and convenient bill payment methods available to you, Soos Creek has installed a new drive –up drop box that gives you the comfort, convenience, and security of remaining in your car. Although the “old” drop box is still located by the main entrance, the “new” drop box may be accessed via vehicle if you make a left turn as you enter the parking lot. The box is well marked, well lit, and has a security camera directed towards it. Both drop boxes will be checked a minimum of twice on business days. Payments received by 7:30 AM will be posted the same business day, and other’s will be posted the next business day.

Other available bill payment methods include:

- ◆ Pay Online @ [www.sooscreek.com](http://www.sooscreek.com) : Pay your bill anytime of the day or night with Discover, MasterCard, Visa, or with an electronic check. Make a one-time payment or enroll in the Customer Dashboard to schedule recurring payments.
- ◆ Pay by phone with Visa, MasterCard, and Discover through Paymentus, our third-party vendor, at 1 (855) 288-2351.
- ◆ Pay in person at our District office: 14616 SE 192nd Street, Renton, WA 98058
- ◆ Pay via US Mail: Make your check payable to SCWSD, write your account number on your check, and include the bottom portion of the bill and your check in the envelope provided with your bill. If you misplaced the envelope, mail your payment to: Soos Creek Water & Sewer District, P.O. Box 34677, Seattle, WA 98124-1677.
- ◆ Soos AutoPay: Make your utility payment on time, every time, with Soos AutoPay. There are no checks to write, no postage to pay, and no late fees. Just download, fill out the form from our website, and mail the form to:  
Soos Creek Water & Sewer District, P.O. Box 58039, Renton, WA 98058-1039
- ◆ Bill Payer Program (Through your Financial Institution): You can arrange with your bank or financial institution to pay your bills from your account. Please contact them directly for more information and allow seven days for payment processing.