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## An important message from the general manager about your bill

I know your utility bills are something you care about, which is why I'm taking the unusual step of addressing you personally about a looming rate hike.

With little public outreach or advance notice to utilities, the King County Council adopted an ordinance in 2016 that we believe amounts to an unlawful tax. If implemented, customers could see their utility bill increase by \$5 per month, per utility, starting this year. A household that receives water, sewer, power and natural gas, could pay \$200 or more per year.

This legislation is called Ordinance 18403, and will require utilities to pay the county "rent" to use the rights-of-way (streets and roads) for water, sewer, power and gas lines in unincorporated King County.

We believe that this is essentially an illegal tax, a revenue-raiser for King County that would go into its General Fund, meaning it could be used for any number of non-utility projects.

More than 21 special-purpose utilities are contesting this tax in a lawsuit (Soos Creek is not part of that suit but we're monitoring closely). King County saw that lawsuit coming and filed an earlier suit of its own against the opposing utilities; it's asking the Superior Court of King County to decide whether the ordinance is an illegal tax or, as the county maintains, a legal rent.

If this tax is upheld, it's your pocketbook that will be hurt. Any new charge or tax on utilities must be passed on to customers. Plus, Soos Creek would have to invest in a new computer system to manage the changes, and that cost would also affect your bills.

**Please let the King County Council know your opinion of Ordinance 18403 by calling (206) 477-1000.**

**In addition, you can contact King County Councilmembers representing unincorporated-county residents:**



### King County COUNCILMEMBERS

DISTRICT 1	Rod Dembowski (ordinance sponsor)
DISTRICT 3	Kathy Lambert (ordinance sponsor)
DISTRICT 4	Jeanne Kohl-Welles (voted for ordinance)
DISTRICT 5	Dave Upthegrove (ordinance sponsor)
DISTRICT 6	Claudia Balducci (ordinance sponsor)
DISTRICT 7	Peter von Reichbauer (opposed ordinance)
DISTRICT 8	Joe McDermott (voted for ordinance)
DISTRICT 9	Reagan Dunn (opposed ordinance)

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



As this case moves through the courts, we will keep you informed via our website: [www.sooscreek.com](http://www.sooscreek.com).

The men and women of the Soos Creek Water and Sewer District work hard every day to deliver safe, clean, reliable and cost-effective service to you.

We want to keep it that way by opposing this reckless and illegal tax.

Thank you.

**Ron Speer, General Manager Soos Creek Water and Sewer District**

## HELP WITH UTILITY BILLS

In 2017, 66 low-income, permanently disabled customers and 255 low-income senior citizens took advantage of the 30 percent discount offered through the district's Utility Rate Reduction Program. The total annual cost of the program was \$26,377.27. Based on equivalent residential units, this translates into an annual cost of 42 cents for all water customers and 44 cents for all sewer customers.

The discount doesn't apply to the King County sewage treatment charge, actual water consumption, street lighting, surcharges, and miscellaneous fees or late charges. If you would like an application for the discount program, please visit [www.sooscreek.com](http://www.sooscreek.com) or call (253) 630-9900.

**30%**  
**DISCOUNT**



## Let Us Know What You Think

Go to [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org) and take our water conservation survey, plus enter to win a free water and energy saving kit for your home.

## Know Your H2O

What makes our water so good? Find out by reading the district's most recent Drinking Water Quality Report online at [www.sooscreek.com](http://www.sooscreek.com). You can also pick up a paper copy of the report at the Soos Creek Water and Sewer District office or have it mailed to you. To request a copy of the report, or if you have any questions about the information contained in the report, please contact our water quality staff at (253) 630-9900.



## Use Water Wisely

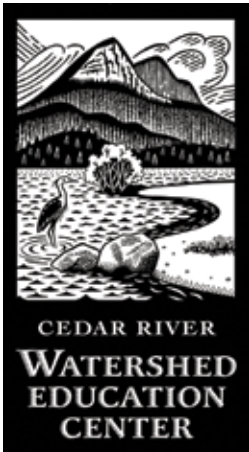
The district purchases its water from Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). To encourage conservation in the warmer months, SPU increases the wholesale cost by 20 percent from May 16 through September 15. During those months, the increase is reflected in your bill. To save money and keep costs down, check out our conservation webpage for both indoor and outdoors tips: [www.sooscreek.com/waterconservation](http://www.sooscreek.com/waterconservation).



## Keep Meters Clear

To make sure your bill is accurate, it's important that our crews have easy access to the water meter on your property. That way, our meter readers can quickly and precisely gather the information on the first visit. Make sure bushes and other plants don't obscure the meter, and keep cars, garbage cans or other objects away from it. Making meter reading quick and efficient helps keep utility costs down and rates stable.

# \$5 OFF EACH TICKET



## Tour the Cedar River Watershed

Just 35 miles east of Seattle, join Seattle Public Utilities naturalists for a tour of the Cedar River Watershed, the source of 100 percent of Soos Creek Water and Sewer District's drinking water. This pristine water source is located in a remote and uninhabited area of the Cascade Mountains. **Get \$5 off the ticket price when you register and redeem the offer online from July-September 2018.**

### CEDAR RIVER WATERSHED EDUCATION TOUR

[www.seattle.gov/util/cedarriverwatershed](http://www.seattle.gov/util/cedarriverwatershed)

Click on "Programs and Tours" **PROMO CODE: WATER**

Questions? Email us at [crwprograms@seattle.gov](mailto:crwprograms@seattle.gov) or call (206) 733-9421.

## SOOS CREEK WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

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### Commissioners

Gary Cline  
Alice Marshall  
Darold Stroud  
Steve Pfaff  
Alan Eades

### General Manager

Ron Speer

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

