

the SOOS CREEK

CON NECTION

www.sooscreek.com

January/February 2017

Lift Station No. 46 Regional Sewer Conveyance Improvement Project Update

The District has made considerable progress in its efforts to provide sewer service to the City of Covington's Town Center, the economic hub for the area. While still under construction, great gains have been accomplished; approximately 10,700 lineal feet of gravity and force mains have been installed as part of the Lift Station No. 46 Regional Sewer Conveyance Improvement Project during the last two years.

Two of the four contracts remain to be completed. Currently under construction are:

- ◆ A portion of the trenchless project which crosses private property along Covington Way SE and at the intersection of SE 272nd Street for a new gravity sewer to the new Lift Station No 46 (LS46). You may have noticed the large cranes along SE 272nd Street and Covington Way SE. These cranes are used to install necessary facilities to facilitate construction of the sewer line.
- ◆ Installation of the new LS46 will be located on the south side of SE 272nd Street where it intersects with 156th Avenue SE. Once the contractor is finished with the installation of a portion of the trenchless project which is currently on the site, construction of the LS46 will begin; the expected start date will be in the first quarter of 2017.

Because development in the Town Center is progressing, the District is working to implement an interim solution to serve the commercial developments before LS46 is complete. The interim facility will consist of a temporary lift station on the site where the new LS46 will be constructed. The facility will be implemented once the trenchless portion of the project wraps up; this is estimated to occur during the first quarter of 2017. This solution will allow new businesses to come on-line and be operational while LS46 is constructed, which is expected by the end of 2017.

Details of each project can be found on the District's website at www.sooscreek.com/projects/lift-station-46. If you have any questions contact the District's Construction Hotline at 425.757.6290 or by email at liftstation46@sooscreek.com.



Trenchless—Tunneling Machine Entering Shaft 3

NO WIPES DOWN THE PIPES!

Wipes, cloths, and rags are being found in sanitary sewers at an ever increasing rate. Many of these products are labeled as flushable, but while they may clear the toilet, they will most likely cause problems downstream.



A baby wipe after it has been flushed, gone through the collection system, and pulled from a pump station.

These products are becoming notorious for blocking sewer mains and binding up pumps. Items that specifically list the term "flushable" (but should **NOT** be flushed) include diapers and diaper liners, baby wipes, pre-moistened wipes, a wide variety of bathroom cleaning wipes, and feminine hygiene products. Instead, please place these items in a trash can. While a toilet may be capable of flushing golf balls, these synthetic products simply do not break down and will have to be removed at the treatment plant or in pumping stations.

Over the last decade, Soos Creek Water & Sewer District has experienced an increase in wastewater pump station maintenance and malfunctions. "Crews regularly unclog mounds of disposable wipes from pumps at considerable expense and environmental consequences. When equipment clogs, wastewater may back up into homes or out of our manholes and into the environment," said General Manager Ron Speer.

Unless it is human waste (urine and feces) or toilet paper, **DON'T FLUSH IT!**

2017 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 2017 water and sewer rates. On December 7, 2016, the Soos Creek Board of Commissioners approved a 2% 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 to \$88.43 in 2017. The increases will be effective with the February 28, 2017 billing cycle.

WATER

The District will increase water rates for 2017 to fund higher operating costs. Below is an outline of the current rates and the 2017 rates.

<u>CURRENT RATES (BIMONTHLY)</u>	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Irrigation</u>
Base Rate for 5/8" Meter	\$ 28.18	\$ 28.18	\$ 28.18
Volume Charge per 100 Cubic Feet			
Winter Rates:			
0—1,000 cubic feet	1.77	1.77	6.06
1,001—2,000 cubic feet	3.64	3.64	6.06
2,001—3,000 cubic feet	4.55	4.55	6.06
> 3,000 cubic feet	5.15	5.15	6.06
<u>2017 RATES (BIMONTHLY)</u>	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Irrigation</u>
Base Rate for 5/8" Meter	\$ 28.74	\$ 28.74	\$ 28.74
Volume Charge per 100 Cubic Feet			
Winter Rates:			
0—1,000 cubic feet	1.81	1.81	6.18
1,001—2,000 cubic feet	3.71	3.71	6.18
2,001—3,000 cubic feet	4.64	4.64	6.18
> 3,000 cubic feet	5.25	5.25	6.18

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, 2017 billing cycle, Soos Creek's base rate will be \$36.06 (bimonthly) and the Volume Charge for commercial customers will increase to \$2.40 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 from \$84.06 to \$88.43 (bimonthly) and King County's Volume Charge for commercial customers will increase to \$5.90 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.

STREET LIGHTS

Street light rates will increase by 2% (from \$5.20 to \$5.30 bimonthly) primarily due to a rate increase from Puget Sound Energy.

BLOCKED SEWER & SEPTIC LINES:
Call PSE first to prevent cross bore danger

When you have a sewer or septic line blockage outside the walls of your home, call PSE to meet your plumber on the scene and check for potentially dangerous cross bores.

If you are contacted by Hydromax USA regarding a sewer or septic line inspection, be assured that they are an authorized PSE service partner working to ensure your safety.

What to do

To safely clear a blocked sewer or septic line:

1. Determine if the blockage is within the walls of your home. Only outdoor blockages pose a risk.
2. If you think the blockage is outside, ask your plumber to call PSE at 1-888-225-5773 at least one hour before attempting to clear it. PSE will immediately dispatch a technician, who can usually arrive at your location within 60 minutes.
3. Working with your plumber, the technician will locate the sewer and gas lines and make sure it's safe to proceed. This service is free of charge.

Your plumber can help

Your plumber or drain-cleaning professional may recommend inserting a camera in your sewer to look for cross bores. This is a good practice, and if a cross bore is found, PSE will reimburse you for the camera inspection. However, you should always call PSE to work with your plumber to precisely locate both your sewer and gas lines before using a cutting tool, because a cross bore may be concealed behind other obstructions and not be visible to the plumber's camera.

To learn more about cross bores, visit: www.PSE.com/sewersafety.

**SOOS CREEK
 WATER & SEWER DISTRICT**

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COMMISSIONERS

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GENERAL MANAGER

Ron Speer

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