

# the SOOS CREEK

## CON NECTION

[www.sooscreek.com](http://www.sooscreek.com)

March/April 2010

### Water Supply Conditions and Outlook

Soos Creek Water & Sewer District purchases its water from Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). This update is intended to provide information on water supply conditions and outlooks as of March 2, 2010.

Our overall water supply situation and outlook is good. However, SPU is closely monitoring and tracking our water supply and instream resources as we head into the spring reservoir refill season. Snowpack is below the long term average for this time of the year.

Water releases from reservoir storage are actively being managed to balance water supply, fish habitat, hydropower, and flood management objectives for both the Cedar and South Fork Tolt Rivers. Water consumption for the previous seven days averaged approximately 103 mgd (million gallons per day). That is less than the 106 mgd consumed during the same period last year, and less than the average of 115 mgd used during the same period over the years 1999 through 2008.

For the latest information on water supply conditions and outlooks, visit:

[www.seattle.gov/util/About\\_SPU/Water\\_System/Water\\_Supply/SPU01\\_001850.asp](http://www.seattle.gov/util/About_SPU/Water_System/Water_Supply/SPU01_001850.asp)

### POSITIVE RESULTS IN A TOUGH ECONOMY

Although 2009 was a tough economic year for all of us, Soos Creek Water & Sewer District was able to continue to fund improvements to its water and sewer systems. This is a result of responsible leadership, effective management, skilled personnel and steady growth in our service area.

The turbulent economic conditions in 2009 presented the District with a favorable bidding climate. The competitive prices for labor and materials brought on by the recession allowed us to make improvements to our water and sewer systems at lower costs, which will benefit our customers in the long term. Listed in the chart are some of the projects initiated in 2009. As indicated in the chart, bids for these projects came in at nearly 34% on average below the engineer's estimated costs.

Project	Engineer's Cost Estimate	Low Bid	% Variance
Lift Station 5B West Forcemain	\$880,000	\$457,729	48%
Cascade Vista Phase 1 Pipe Replacement	\$1,654,270	\$1,192,565	28%
SE 208th Street Watermain Improvements	\$1,669,600	\$1,218,245	27%

The District will continue to take advantage of the favorable bidding climate by making additional improvements and upgrades to our systems in 2010 and 2011. For a list of current major projects, visit [www.sooscreek.com](http://www.sooscreek.com).

### 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.

**PAYMENT OPTIONS**

Take advantage of the District’s easy to use automated payment options.

*Online Payment:*

Visa and MasterCard payments are accepted at no additional charge over our secure Web server. Logon to [www.sooscreek.com](http://www.sooscreek.com), click *Online Payment*, and follow the instructions to see detailed information of your utility account and to pay your account by credit card. Visa and MasterCard payments are accepted for single-family, residential accounts only.

*Soos AutoPay:*

You can make sure your Soos Creek utility payments are on-time, every time, without even thinking about it. There are no checks to write, no postage to pay, and no late fees to worry about because *Soos Auto Pay* does it all for you. Please phone our Customer Service Department at (253) 630-9900 to obtain an application form.

*Pay-by-Phone:*

Soos Creek Water & Sewer District partnered with Metavante (now part of FIS) to offer an option for our residential customers to pay their bills using VISA or MasterCard by phone. Metavante will charge a non-refundable convenience fee of \$3.99 per transaction of which Soos Creek receives no part. Customers can reach the *Pay-by-Phone* service by calling the District Office at (253) 630-9900 and select Option #8, or by calling the direct toll free line at 1 (866) 931-3320.

The District averages over 2,026 payments per month Online, over 2,250 customers are already enrolled in AutoPay, and an average of 362 payments per month are made by phone. *Call us and sign up for AutoPay today!*

**It’s Only a Small Drip...Right?**



Slow drips of water can add up quickly. A toilet that “keeps running” after you flush, or a sink that drips after it is turned off, can waste thousands of gallons of water a year. If the drip is hot water, you are paying for wasted energy too. Fix leaks as soon as you find them. They won’t go away on their own.

**A “Running” Toilet Leak**

Toilet leaks can range from small to large, constant or random. Many are even silent. Even a small, silent leak can easily waste \$50 per year in water and sewer costs. Large leaks can waste much more. Fortunately, most toilet leaks are relatively easy to fix. In a properly functioning toilet, no water should move from the tank to the bowl, unless the toilet is being flushed. A leaking toilet loses water from the tank to the bowl without being flushed.

**Checking for a leaky toilet:**

1. Remove the tank lid. (Don’t worry, this water is clean until it enters the bowl.)
2. Add some food coloring or a dye tablet to turn the water a different color. Put the tank lid back on.
3. After about 30 minutes, look in the bowl. If you see colored water, you have a leak. If the water is clear, water is not leaking from the tank to the bowl.

If you do have a leak, there are a number of possible causes. If you remove the tank lid and can easily identify the cause, correct the problem and try your leak test again. Consider that “fixes” such as bending the float back to shape, or adjusting how the rubber flapper falls, often end up failing soon afterward. In most cases, you will simply want to replace the toilet flapper (the rubber at the bottom of the tank that keeps water in the tank) and/or the filling mechanism. These are available at hardware stores and home centers for about \$8 each.

A limited supply of toilet leak detection dye is available at the District Office. Pick one up today!

**Utility Rate Reduction Program**

During 2009, 43 low income permanently disabled and 213 low income senior citizens took advantage of the 25% discount offered through this program. The total annual cost of the program was \$13,545.97. Based on equivalent residential units, this translates into an annual cost of 19 cents for all water customers and 27 cents for all sewer customers. If you would like an application for the District’s Utility Rate Reduction Program, contact us at (253) 630-9900.

**SOOS CREEK  
WATER & SEWER DISTRICT**

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**COMMISSIONERS**

Karen Webster  
Clement Quanrud  
Randy Reece  
Gary Cline  
Alice Marshall

**DISTRICT MANAGER**

Ron Speer

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