
the SOOS CREEK

CON NECTION

www.sooscreek.com

November/December 2009

Potential Flooding of the Green River

The District has experienced a significant increase in the number of inquiries concerning how the potential Green River flooding (Howard Hanson Dam) may affect our facilities. We hope that this information addresses your concerns.

All of the District's facilities are in the upland portions of the Green River Valley and well away from the flood zones. "Water and sewer services to SCWSD customers should not be interrupted due to the potential flooding of the Green River. The chances of service disruption are no greater this year than in previous years", said District Manager Ron Speer.

Although we are not in the immediate flood zone, we do anticipate some indirect consequences if the valley were to flood. We recognize that we may have essential vendors and suppliers located in the Green River Valley, who may not be able to get their supplies and materials to us because of impacted routes. We also recognize that a major concern of the District is the possible interruption of reliable electrical power.

The District is prepared to meet the challenges of the potential Green River Valley flooding:

1. Most of the District's staff lives in or close to the District office, minimizing the impact of employee attendance due to road closures.
2. District personnel are cross-trained to ensure that all critical functions are maintained during emergencies.
3. An interim shelter for employees has been established should it become necessary for an emergency crew to be on stand-by.
4. All of our facilities have back-up generators (either on-site or portable) that will supply the stations with power should our normal power supply be interrupted.
5. We have installed additional fuel storage capacity and increased our ability to move fuel to our pump stations more rapidly.
6. We have identified essential supplies and materials and are well stocked in advance.
7. King County's South Treatment Plant in Renton serves as the primary wastewater conveyance and treatment system for the Green River Valley. King County has assured SCWSD that even during significant flooding, King County expects the South Treatment Plant to remain operational and continue to treat wastewater.

We hope that this information has been helpful in answering your concerns. For additional information, visit www.emd.wa.gov/activations/GreenRiverFlooding.shtml.

Soos Creek Water & Sewer District's Commissioners, management, and staff are committed to emergency management preparedness. We urge you to prepare for all emergencies, including flooding. One of the best resources to assist you in preparation is the "3Days3Ways" website at www.3days3ways.org.



Grease Goes in the Garbage – Not Down the Drain

Grease, fats, oils and gravy that go down your sink, toilet or garbage disposal can stick to the inside of your drain and the District’s sewer pipes. Over time, it builds up and can block an entire pipe. “During the holidays, people do a lot of cooking,” said District Manager Ron Speer. “Food waste is a common cause of fats and grease in the sewer system and it can create problems.”

The results of a grease-blocked sewer pipe can cause unpleasant, messy and expensive sewer backups that often must be paid for by the property owner. To prevent grease from clogging your side sewer and the District’s sewer system, consider the following:

- ◆ Reduce your use of oil and grease by grilling or by reusing fry oil.
- ◆ Never pour oil or grease into a drain or toilet--reuse old food containers to store your grease. Keep the container on your counter until it’s filled, then seal it in a plastic bag and place it in the garbage.
- ◆ Don’t put grease or meats in the garbage disposals. Garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the pipes; they only shred it into smaller pieces.
- ◆ Scrape grease and food waste from plates, pots, pans, grills, and kitchen utensils and put it into a trash can.
- ◆ Respect your neighbors by not letting grease go down the drain. Not only can it clog the pipes at your home, but built-up grease can also clog sewer mains and overflow into other homes, yards, and streets.



Thank you for doing your part to keep fats, oils and grease out of the sewer system.

Freezing Pipes and Plumbing

Each winter, homes are damaged due to water pipes that freeze and burst. By taking a few simple precautions, you can help save yourself from the mess, expense, and headaches of burst frozen pipes:

- ◆ Insulate pipes in your home’s crawl spaces, basement, and attic. Exposed pipes are most susceptible to freezing. The more insulation you use, the better the protection.
- ◆ Drain and disconnect garden hoses and insulate hose bibs.
- ◆ Learn where your master water shutoff valve is located. If a pipe does burst, the valve can be turned off quickly to minimize damage to your home.

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COMMISSIONERS
Karen Webster
Clement Quanrud
Randy Reece
Connie Sullivan
Gary Cline

DISTRICT MANAGER
Ron Speer

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

He's Back!!!
After 8 long months,
our beloved CattyHead
has returned home.
Thanks to all who
expressed concern and
offered information on
possible sightings.

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.