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# the SOOS CREEK

## CON NECTION

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www.sooscreek.com

September/October 2009

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### Planning for a Pandemic Flu

Earlier this year, a new H1N1 influenza virus, also known as the Swine flu, was identified and continues to spread around the world. Health officials are warning that the H1N1 flu will circulate along with regular influenza viruses this fall and our communities will see an increase in illnesses from this virus.

Soos Creek Water & Sewer District maintains an Emergency Response Plan to guide the District's response in the event of an emergency such as a Pandemic Flu. A pandemic is an outbreak of a disease in many countries at the same time. In responding to a pandemic, life safety and maintaining uninterrupted service to our customers are key objectives.

If health experts are correct, and the H1N1 influenza virus begins to spread rapidly in our area, it may become necessary to temporarily limit the face-to face interaction between District staff and our customers. These measures, known as "social distancing," may include District employees wearing gloves and masks. It may even be necessary to close the District office to the public. If these drastic steps were to be implemented, the District would still have the ability to assist you through the District's website, e-mail, phone, and by standard mail. For general information on the H1N1 flu and to learn more about what you can do to stay healthy, visit [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu) or call 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).

### Flooding in the Green River Valley — Are You Ready?

Residents, businesses and farms below the Howard Hanson Dam in the Green River Valley are at a higher risk of flooding. The higher risk is due to water seeping more rapidly through an earthen bank next to the dam after record high water last winter. Until the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can make repairs, it will limit the amount of flood water it stores behind the dam.

The restricted flood storage means if heavy and prolonged rain occurs this flood season (roughly October through March), many homes, businesses and agricultural lands in the valley that don't typically see flood water - including parts of Auburn, Kent, Renton, South Seattle, and Tukwila - could be flooded by several feet of water. For more information about Green River Valley Flood Safety, visit [www.kingcounty.gov/floodplans](http://www.kingcounty.gov/floodplans) or call 253-856-4440.

Although residents and businesses in Soos Creek Water & Sewer District are not in the immediate flood zone, flooding in the valley may cause major power outages throughout the District. The District has portable, diesel powered generators that it uses to keep the stations working in the event of major power outages. However, during severe storm conditions, service disruptions may occur. In these cases, SCWSD employees will make those repairs as quickly as possible.

SCWSD encourages you to prepare now for the winter season:

1. Store food and water. If you are without power, you will need food that is nonperishable such as dried and canned goods. If you don't have at least one or two weeks of supplies on hand, now is the time to start getting them together. Keep a non-electric can opener on hand.
2. Have blankets and warm clothes available to stay warm, safe, and comfortable. Remember to also keep a supply of extra blankets and warm clothes in your car in case it breaks down or you become stranded when you are driving.
3. Having a generator is very useful during a power outage. If you plan to use a fireplace or wood stove, be sure it is clean and operating properly. A supply of dry seasoned wood is also important to have available.
4. Keep several flashlights with extra batteries on hand even if you do have a generator.
5. Have a battery-operated radio available so you can hear updates on conditions.

Take advantage of resources available to help you prepare for emergencies. Visit "3 Days 3 Ways" at [www.3days3ways.org](http://www.3days3ways.org) and "Take Winter by Storm" at [www.takewinterbystorm.org](http://www.takewinterbystorm.org).

#### 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.

**2010 WATER AND SEWER RATES**

Each year, the Board of Commissioners and management review the District's budget and consider how we can continue to provide excellent service in an efficient and cost effective manner. Operating in a fiscally responsible approach is a key objective for the District, and we have worked hard over the years to keep water and sewer rates stable. We are pleased to inform you that the Board of Commissioners has made the decision that **THERE WILL BE NO RATE INCREASE FOR WATER AND NO RATE INCREASE IN SCWSD'S PORTION OF THE SEWER BILL IN 2010.**

Water Rates (Bimonthly)

	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Irrigation</u>
Base Rate for 3/4" Meter	\$ 17.70	\$ 17.70	\$ 17.70
Volume Charge per 100 Cubic Feet			
Winter Rates:			
0—1,000 cubic feet	1.45	1.45	5.10
1,001—2,000 cubic feet	2.97	2.97	5.10
2,001—3000 cubic feet	3.72	3.72	5.10
> 3,000 cubic feet	4.25	4.25	5.10

Note: 100 cubic feet of water = 748 gallons  
 Summer Conservation Rates (June—September) includes a 20% surcharge

Sewer Rates

The base rate for Soos Creek's portion of the sewer bill will remain at \$31.10 (bimonthly) and the Volume Charge for commercial customers will be \$1.65 per 100 cubic feet of water consumed in excess of the first 1,500 cubic feet (bimonthly).

The King County sewer rate portion shown on the Soos Creek sewer customers' bills is for treatment, disposal, and conveyance of sewage to the Renton Treatment Plant, and to help fund the new Brightwater facility. This charge is a Pass Through rate from King County. If you have questions or comments regarding the King County rate for sewage treatment and capacity charges, contact the King County Council at (206) 296-1000.

The District will continue to work hard to provide you with the excellent service that you expect. If you have any questions regarding the water and sewer rates, contact the billing/customer service department at (253) 630-9900.



**Fall is the Time to Plant**

Fall is one of the best times to plant trees, shrubs, and perennials. Rain and cooler temperatures help plants develop strong roots, so you won't need to water as much next summer. Spreading compost, leaves or woodchips on your garden beds this fall will also help your plants by soaking up winter rains, reducing weeds, and holding in moisture next summer. To learn more, visit [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org) or call the Garden Hotline at 206-633-0224.

**Using Water Wisely Helps People and Salmon**

Are you aware that the region's water utilities are withdrawing less water from the Cedar River than they did in the 1960's? Quite remarkable given the population and economic growth that the region has seen in the past 50 years. That's great news for the fish and aquatic life that benefit from more water flowing in the river. A big *THANK-YOU* goes to utility customers, who continue to be more water efficient every year. Customer conservation efforts give water utilities greater flexibility in managing river flows to benefit both people and salmon.



**SOOS CREEK WATER & SEWER DISTRICT**

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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.