

the SOOS CREEK

CON NECTION

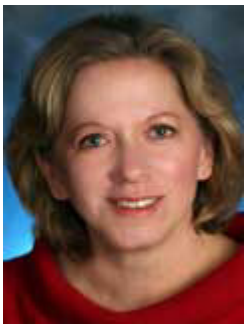
www.sooscreek.com

January/February 2010



Re-Elected Commissioner Karen Webster

Commissioner Karen Webster was re-elected (unopposed) to the Soos Creek Water & Sewer District Board of Commissioners. She has been committed to the success of the District for the past 24 years. "SCWSD maintains some of the lowest water and sewer rates in our region through diligent budget controls and cost savings mechanisms. My continued commitment to you is to ensure responsible leadership, effective management, and skilled personnel in order to continue delivering reliable, high quality, safe and cost effective water and sewer services," said Commissioner Webster. "I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to serving you in my new term".



Meet Newly-Elected Commissioner Alice Marshall


Soos Creek Water & Sewer District's newly-elected Commissioner, Alice Marshall, is a lifelong western Washington resident. Alice and her husband Jim have lived in the Soos Creek service area for 17 years. She has 29 years of experience in the water and sewer industry as a Soos Creek Water & Sewer District employee for more than 25 years and currently as Administration Supervisor for King County Water District #111. "I am committed to preserving a tradition of excellent customer service while balancing the needs of the District. My experience has prepared me to bring to the Board a well rounded knowledge of the District, its policies, history, and future needs," said Commissioner Marshall. The Commissioners, staff, and consultants welcome Alice Marshall to the Board of Commissioners.



"Thank You for the Opportunity to Serve" ~Connie Sullivan

Soos Creek Water & Sewer District's success is driven by the Board's solid leadership, commitment to public service, and proper guidance. SCWSD's Board of Commissioners has guided the District through a number of challenges over the years, and yet, our primary goal of providing you with excellent water and sewer services has never wavered. As I depart the Board, I will leave the community with this – I am very proud to have been given the opportunity to serve with a dedicated and knowledgeable Board of Commissioners, staff, and consultants. Rest assured that you will continue to receive high quality water and sewer services. It has been my pleasure serving you.

HOUSE BILL 2749 – 6% UTILITY TAX

The State Legislature convened on January 11, 2010, for its 60 day session. In this session, cities and counties are again introducing a bill, House Bill 2749, that would give them the authority to collect up to a 6% utility tax from special purpose water and sewer districts as a way to help the counties and cities balance their budgets. 

Soos Creek Water & Sewer District, along with a majority of special purpose districts throughout the State, strongly opposes the utility tax for many reasons:

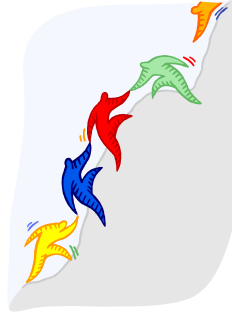
- 1) Water and sewer districts provide *essential* services that are required to live in a house. We are not allowed to live in our homes without these basic services.
- 2) The District, as a local government, must rely *only* on our sewer and water rates to provide clean, safe drinking water and reliable sewer service to all of our customers.

If the utility tax bill passes, you would see an immediate increase in your overall utility bill by up to 6%. Additionally, this regressive tax would place a greater share of the tax burden on low and moderate-income ratepayers, especially in the current economic recession when they can least afford it.

Soos Creek Water & Sewer District's Board of Commissioners passed a Resolution on January 20, 2010 opposing House Bill 2749. To view the original bill, visit www.leg.wa.gov. Click on "Bill Search", enter "2749", and click on original bill. **We urge you to contact your Senators and Representatives to voice your opposition to the proposed 6% Utility Tax by calling 1-800-562-6000.**

Community Service

Last December, SCWSD's Commissioners, employees, and consultants personally donated \$2,730 to purchase Christmas gifts for residents of the Talbot Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare and other families in our community who experienced difficult times during the holiday season. "We do this to give back to our community. It's a great feeling to know that we are making a difference," said District Manager Ron Speer. Our goal is to raise funds again next year to help others in need.



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.

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/.

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.

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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.