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**Water Utilities Sign New 60-Year Contracts with Seattle
(Soos Creek, Cedar River Water and Sewer Districts Sign First Deals)**

RENTON – Two local water utilities signed new 60-year water supply agreements with the City of Seattle during a special ceremony this afternoon at Soos Creek Water and Sewer District, 14616 SE 192nd Street, Renton.

“This is a significant time for Seattle’s wholesale customers and for Seattle,” said Ron Speer, manager of Soos Creek Water and Sewer District. “The process to create these contracts has involved nine years of negotiations, four regional water supply organizations and countless hours of efforts by the partners,” Speer added.

Highlights of the new contracts include:

- Provide a 60-year commitment to supply the full water requirements of the two water districts.
- Provide the districts with a “voice and a vote.” An Operating Board will be created representing utilities from around the region. The board will make key decisions on water system operations, environmental stewardship and new supplies.
- “Growth pays for growth” – Utilities will pay for new facilities based on growth in their customer base.
- Create common wholesale rates. Utilities will all pay the same wholesale rates for the same basic services.
- Provide a “common carrier” framework for moving water around the region.

“These contracts are evidence of an enhanced spirit of cooperation among regional water suppliers,” said Ron Sheadel, manager of the Cedar River Water and Sewer District. “We know that, working together, we can all ensure adequate water supplies for people and fish in our region,” he added.

Seattle Public Utilities sells water to 26 wholesale customers throughout King County and in South Snohomish County. The model contracts with Cedar River and Soos Creek provide flexibility to meet the needs of wholesale customers in different circumstances, such as wholesale customers with independent water supplies. Seattle Public Utilities expects to sign new contracts with the rest of its wholesale customers within the next few years.

For more information about the purveyor partners, please visit

<http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/util/services/Purveyors/purveyors.htm>

In addition to providing more than 1.3 million customers in the Seattle metropolitan area with a reliable water supply, Seattle Public Utilities provides essential sewer, drainage, solid waste and engineering services that safeguard public health, maintain the City’s infrastructure, and protect, conserve and enhance the region’s environmental resources.