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## SOOS CREEK WATER & SEWER DISTRICT NEWS

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<b>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE</b>	Contact: Ron Speer, District Manager (253) 630-9900
Press Release No. 04-04	
12:30 p.m., August 26, 2004	

### **Soos Creek Water & Sewer District Participates in Nationally Recognized Emergency Planning**

(RENTON, WASH) --- Soos Creek Water & Sewer District continues to work closely with King County and other public and private regional partners to improve regional emergency preparation and responses. Last month, these efforts paid off as King County's *Regional Disaster Plan for Public and Private Organizations* was recognized by the National Association of Counties (NACo) as a 2004 Achievement Award winner.

The development of the plan, which was led by King County, included participation from Soos Creek Water & Sewer District and 122 other public and private organizations in the county. The plan makes use of existing resources, such as the local emergency response plans, and creates a cooperative environment for more effective and efficient county-wide disaster response. The plan was developed by creating a shared concept for how individual, autonomous and private and nonprofit organizations and government agencies and jurisdictions will work together in times of extreme natural, technological and human-caused emergencies and disasters in King County.

"Soos Creek is dedicated to doing our part to make the region a safer place to live, work and play," said Ron Speer, Soos Creek Water & Sewer District's Manager. "This effort is just one of many steps that the District is taking to safeguard our systems against natural and human-created emergencies and disasters."

Currently 123 organizations are partners; including cities, fire districts, school districts, water & sewer districts, hospitals, nonprofits, and large private businesses within King County. More information about the *Regional Disaster Plan for Public and Private Organizations*, including a list of participants, can be found on the County's website at: <http://www.metrokc.gov/prepare/programs/regionalplan.aspx>

The NACo Achievement Award Program is a non-competitive program that recognizes counties for improving the management of and services provided by county government.

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Soos Creek Water & Sewer District is one of the largest utilities in the State of Washington, serving approximately 35 square miles. The District provides water service delivery to 20,216 equivalent residential units (ERUs) and 29,743 for sewer, serving approximately 86,000 customers. Areas of service include the cities of Auburn, Black Diamond, Covington, Kent, Maple Valley, and Renton and part of unincorporated King County.