

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – SEWER CONNECTION

### **Q. How do I connect to the Soos Creek Water & Sewer District sewer system?**

**Answer:** A homeowner who would like to connect to sewer should contact the District to see if sewer is currently available to their address.

### **Q. What does it mean that sewer is available?**

**Answer:** Sewer is always available to customers within our district, but the cost to run it to your property may not be feasible. The slope of the land determines the location and direction for sewer service to your property. In some cases, sewer may be present in front of your property but due to the slope of the land, it may not be able to service your parcel. In such cases, an engineering review will determine the final outcome for sewer service to your lot.

### **Q. What is a Certificate of Availability and how do I get one?**

**Answer:** A certificate of Availability is a certificate issued by the District that states if sewer is available to the parcel(s) and states what may need to be done if sewer is not fronting the parcel. An application for availability can be obtained at the District office or on our web site, [www.sooscreek.com](http://www.sooscreek.com), under development.

### **Q. What is the Cost of an Availability Certificate?**

**Answer:** Availability costs vary based on what the property owner is trying to accomplish. Please contact the development department to discuss your development plans. Some availabilities require an engineering review to determine the best sewer connection based on area, topography, depth of existing sewer system and development plans.

### **Q. A sewer mainline was just installed in front of the property, do I still have to pay to connect?**

**Answer:** Yes, only instead of a mainline contribution, you would pay a latecomers or special connection charge.

### **Q. What if there is not a sewer line fronting my parcel?**

**Answer:** If a sewer line is not fronting your parcel a mainline extension would be required to serve your parcel. In cases where the mainline was not installed to the edge of a property you are either required to complete the installation or pay interim fees.

### **Q. What are interim fees?**

**Answer:** This fee is established for use in the rare case where the District waives the main line installation requirement but collects a fair share of the future cost of sewer in the “interim”. Interim fees are fees in lieu of constructing a mainline fees, collected by the District so the District has funds to build the sewer at a future date.

### **Q. What is a mainline extension?**

**Answer:** A mainline extension is when the property owner enters into an agreement with the District to build the mainline extension and hires a contractor to connect to the closest determined sewer connection and lay additional sewer pipe to reach the property.

### **Q. What is meant by “Latecomers or Special Connection” charges?**

**Answer:** Latecomers is a term used by most entities to establish a reimbursement from properties that are not part of the construction project but choose to connect to the system later. When someone chooses to use the system at a later date, they pay fees at the time of connection as their fair share of the mainline. The fees are given back to the developer who paid for the construction of the line.

**Q. Can we get a written estimate of sewer connection fees?**

**Answer:** Yes, fees can be put in writing. When you apply for a certificate of availability you will get a certificate stating the availability of sewer and the connection costs for each parcel/development. If your property needs an engineering review to determine the sewer connection, a quote for sewer mainline design will be provided with a sketch of the recommended sewer route. All fees are subject to change without written notice.

**Q. How are connection fees determined?**

**Answer:** Most fees are flat charges, established by the Board of Commissioners. Your main line contribution is based on front footage, currently \$85.42 per front foot, which represents the average cost of installing mainline for one side of the pipe. If a mainline extension is needed, the fees will be based on the engineering cost to design the sewer plans, the permits and inspections required to complete the system.

**Q. How does the county expect the average home owner to afford such a large hook up expense?**

**Answer:** Fees would be higher if everyone was not charged equally for their benefit. Sewer is an expensive utility to construct due to the depth and location. All fees charged by the District are based on "real" costs.

**Q. Do the fees include any work towards the hook up of the sewer to the house?**

**Answer:** The District does not provide any construction costs in the fees provided. Fees represent a share of past and future costs of providing sewer to the area. It is the developer's responsibility to contact a contractor for connection fees. We recommend that you get estimates from 3 – 4 contractors.

**Q. How much work is the home owner allowed to do?**

**Answer:** The home owner can decide that on their own. Take a look at the District specs and standards and the depth that is needed to install the mainline or side sewer. Keep in mind that if there is an existing septic system will need to be properly abandoned (contact the health dept. for the requirements to decommission a septic tank). An experienced, licensed contractor will be able to handle the abandonment and construction issues of connecting to the sewer system. If you chose to install the system you will be required to meet all of the specs and standards for Soos Creek Water & Sewer District.

**Q. Does the property behind me have to pay to hook up?**

**Answer:** All properties pay for their share of mainline.

**Q. What would you recommend if I plan to sub divide the property?**

**Answer:** If you sub divide you will most likely be required to extend mainline, at least onsite to serve each lot. A good idea of what it would take can be obtained by applying for availability for the sub division. Please prepare a lot layout to submit with your application so the layout can be considered when determining the mainline requirements to serve all the lots.

**Q. Once connected, what are the monthly sewer charges?**

**Answer:** Sewer is billed on a bi-monthly basis. As of January 2009 the sewer rate is \$ 94.90, subject to a yearly change.

In addition, in 1990 the King County Capacity charge was established for all new connections to pay for a share of county expenses for upgrades to the treatment facilities, covered by RCW 35.58 and KC Code 28.84. For 2009 the capacity charge has been set at \$47.64 per residential customer equivalent per month. This is billed directly by King County about 3 months after connection to the sewer system. A brochure can be obtained at the District office or more information can be obtained by contacting the King County Capacity Charge Program office at 206-296-1450 or their web site at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/capchrg>

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE DISTRICT AT 253-630-9900  
OR VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT [WWW.SOOSCREEK.COM](http://WWW.SOOSCREEK.COM)**