



Around the Lake

Water and Sewer-Related News and Information

Assistance With Utility Bills

by Commissioner Shauna Willner



The District recognizes the pandemic’s negative impact on many customers’ financial situations. Since March of 2020, we’ve been working to minimize the impact, by placing a moratorium on utility shut offs and penalties for delinquent payments, and offering installment

plans for all customers that accrued significant payment arrearages, which would enable them to pay back the balance owed over time, with no penalties or interest. We continue to work closely with other agencies and nonprofits to help customers access resources that may be available to pay past due rent or directly for utility balances.

Rental Assistance

As of June 2022, Renter’s Assistance is still available in Snohomish County, but availability is projected to end soon. These funds can also be used to pay past due utility bills. This federal assistance program is being administered by Volunteers of America and Workforce in Snohomish County. Past due renters or property owners with past due renters can apply for the assistance either by calling 211 or visiting www.voaww.org. The District would like to express our appreciation to the entire Workforce team, for all their hard work and dedication assisting the District’s customers.

Low-Income Household Assistance

New in 2022, Low-Income Households may qualify for Federal Assistance with Energy and Water/Wastewater

Utility Bills, which may be used to help with delinquent balances and current bills. For more information, call (425) 388-3880 or visit <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/552/Energy-Assistance>.

Washington State Assistance

During the 2022 Legislative Session, \$100 million was authorized to help address arrearages for energy and water utility bills. District staff are closely monitoring this program to ensure our customers have access to these funds when they become available.

Low-Income Seniors / Disabled Persons Program

The District’s ongoing program for low-income seniors or disabled persons offer discounts of typically 50% off water and 25% off sewer base rates. In 2021, 180 customers qualified for these lower rates and received a total of \$42,544.80 in reduced water and sewer charges.

Qualifications: Total household income must be \$55,743 or less. Seniors must be age 61 or older. Disabled individuals must be receiving disabled benefits from one or more of the following: Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Veteran Disability Compensation (VDC), Non-Grant Medical Assistance (NGMA), permanent disability insurance benefits, or state permanent disability benefits.

Learn more about this program and download the Low-Income Application Form from the “Forms” section of our website at: www.slwsd.com, or contact our Customer Service staff by phone at (425) 337-3647.

Work Where you Live... while Providing Essential Utility Services to your Community

The District currently has several open positions, ranging from summer temporary positions requiring no experience, to full-time, fully benefited team members. We offer competitive pay, excellent benefits, and a positive, supportive workplace. Check our website for our current openings and application requirements at <https://www.slwsd.com/employment.html>



Water and Sewer Rate Adjustment

Silver Lake Water and Sewer District purchases water and sewer treatment services from the City of Everett and Alderwood Water & Wastewater District (AWWD). All water purchased by the District comes from the City of Everett, either directly from the City or indirectly via the Clearview Water Supply Agency or Alderwood Water & Wastewater District (AWWD).

Sewer treatment services are provided either by the City of Everett (Everett Sewer Basin) or by King County Metro (AWWD Sewer Basin). These costs, which are referred to as Pass Through Rates, are the District's largest expenditure.

Consistent with the agreements between the District and these agencies, Pass Through Rates are adjusted annually. Once all of the increases are finalized, the Board of Commissioners reviews the cumulative impact of the Pass Through Rate changes and adjusts the District's rates to recover the increased costs.

Due to high inflationary costs impacting the District's other expenses (materials, supplies, energy, wages, and capital construction) for 2022, the Board also approved an additional 6.325% rate adjustment, based on the October to October Consumer Price Index (CPI-W). In the past, rate adjustments for these other costs were done periodically; however, costs are increasing too rapidly to allow for that.

The Table below outlines the 2022 rate increases for single family customers for each sewer basin. The complete Rate Table and a comparison with other local agencies can be found at: www.slwsd.com.

New rates go into effect starting May 1, 2022. Customers that are billed in even months will see the increase on their June bill, for services provided from May 1 through June 30. Customers that are billed in odd months will see the increase on their July bill, for services provided from June 1 to July 31. Commercial, industrial, irrigation, and multifamily customers that are billed monthly will see the rate increase on their May bill, for services provided from May 1 to May 31.

2022 Water and Sewer Rate Increase	Monthly Cost							
	Everett Sewer Basin				AWWD Sewer Basin			
	Water Unit			Sewer Unit	Water Unit			Sewer Unit
Base	Winter	Summer	Base		Winter	Summer		
2022 Current Rate	14.60	2.95	3.55	66.45	14.60	2.95	3.55	62.50
2002 Pass-Through Rates	-	0.05	0.05	0.30	-	0.05	0.05	2.05
2022 District Portion (6.325%)	0.90	0.20	0.20	4.20	0.90	0.20	0.20	3.95
2022 New Rates	15.50	3.20	3.80	70.95	15.50	3.20	3.80	68.50
2022 Net Increase	0.90	0.25	0.25	4.50	0.90	0.25	0.25	6.00
2022 Percentage Increase	6.16%	8.47%	7.04%	6.77%	6.16%	8.47%	7.04%	9.60%

Maintaining Easements

The District has an annual program to clear brush and trees from sewer and water easements, using a District tracked machine with a large mower attachment. This helps prevent damage to the lines from roots, and keeps easements accessible for maintenance or emergencies, such as a water main break or a sewer line backup.

Submit Backflow Test Reports Online

District staff recently upgraded the software that catalogs all the backflow preventers in our service area, and tracks their annual test status. Backflow Assembly Testers must now submit test reports online at: slwsd.tokaytest.com
Learn more on our website at: www.slwsd.com/crossconnection.html

Location Request Paint Colors:

Your Proposed Excavation
Temporary Survey
Electric Power
Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum
Communications, Alarm or Signal, Cables or Conduit
Potable Water
Reclaimed Water, Irrigation, Slurry Lines
Sewer and Drain Lines



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

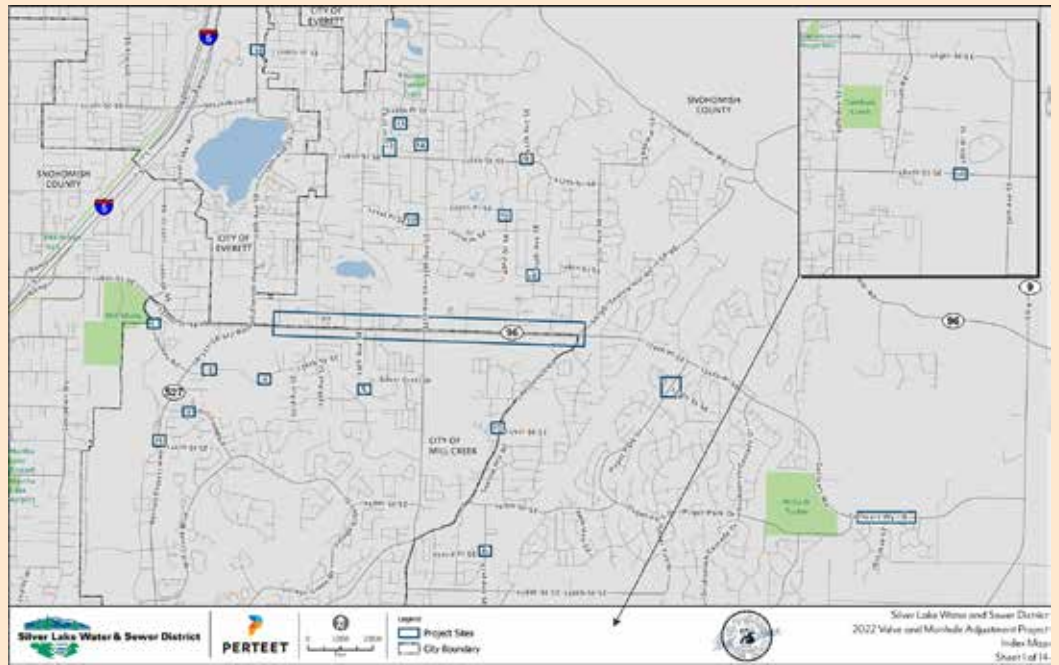
If you're planning to build a new deck or fence, plant trees and shrubs, install drainage, or dig around / remove an old tree stump, Washington State requires you to call 811—the Call Before You Dig Hotline—at least two days before excavation takes place (RCW 19.122). This **FREE** service contacts the utilities, who come out and mark the site with colored spray paint to indicate the location of their underground utility pipes or lines to avoid them getting damaged. After you place the call, please assist the locators by using white paint to mark the proposed area of excavation you are planning. Most hardware stores carry inverted tip spray paint used for marking the ground.

The District marks water and sewer lines in right-of-way areas and easements only... we do not mark on private property. If you're planning additions or improvements to your home, sewer as-built drawings of side sewer connections are available for your review and use at our office. We do not maintain any records of water service line as-built drawings on private property.

Current Infrastructure Improvement Projects

Valve and Manhole Adjustments

In early summer, Silver Lake Water and Sewer District will be replacing and adjusting approximately 70 water valve and manhole covers located in roadways at 20 different locations scattered around the District (indicated with small blue squares in the graphic at right). Approximately half of the repair sites are in Mill Creek along 132nd Street SE between 21st Drive SE and Seattle Hill Road.



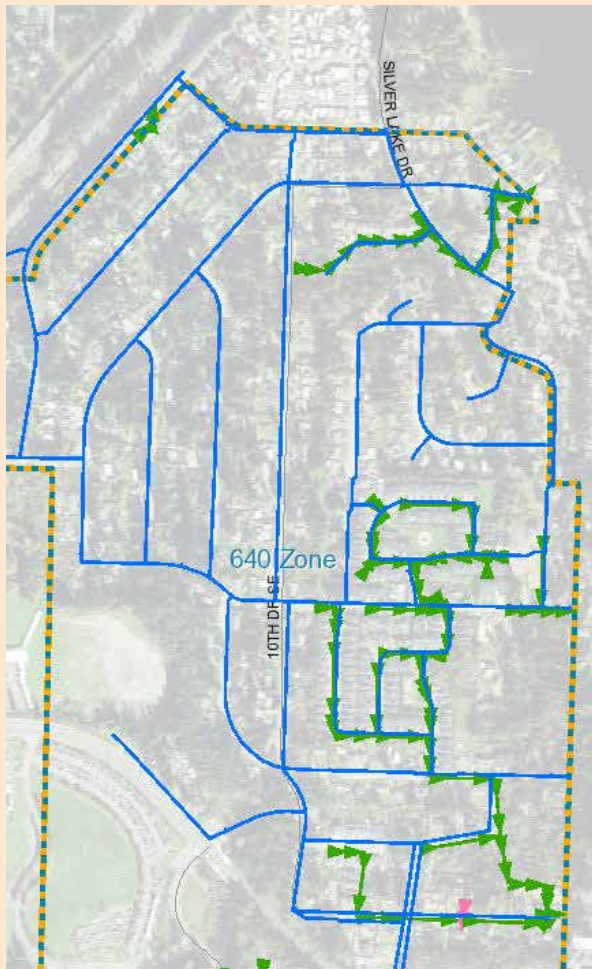
The contractor is Quilceda Excavation, Inc. based out of Stanwood. The estimated project cost including design is \$335,000. Construction work is expected to last approximately eight weeks, and single lane closures can be expected during the work.

10th Drive SE Water and Sewer Improvements

In December 2021, the District was awarded a \$450,000 Public Works Trust Fund (P WTF) loan from the State Department of Commerce for the design of water and sewer improvements in 10th Drive SE between 118th Place SE and 131st Street SE in the Silver Acres neighborhood.

The scope of the work includes replacing approximately 4,700 feet of existing 6-inch cast iron water main with new 12-inch ductile iron pipe, along with new fire hydrants and service lines. This will provide a new water distribution backbone between the District's recent Master Meter 3 project near I-5 and two existing 12-inch water mains at the south end of the project area. Work will also include the installation of approximately 2,100 feet of new 8-inch PVC sewer main and laterals to provide sewer service to parcels currently on septic systems.

Preliminary design work is currently underway with the consulting firm of Kimley-Horn in Bothell at a cost of \$160,253. Survey work and a required cultural resources study have been completed, and the 30% design alignment of the new water and sewer system should be completed in mid-summer. The final design should be completed early next year, and the District will apply for a P WTF construction loan in mid-2023. If successful, construction work could start in early 2024.





Silver Lake Water & Sewer District

15205 - 41st Avenue SE
Bothell, WA 98012-6114

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit# 1327
Seattle, WA

Silver Lake Water & Sewer District

Address

15205 - 41st Avenue SE
Bothell, WA 98012-6114

Phone

425-337-3647

Fax

425-337-4399

Office Hours

Our office is fully reopened for in-person customer service. We also serve customers via phone, email, or in a virtual setting.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed Saturday, Sunday, and major holidays.

Public Meetings

Our Board of Commissioners meetings have resumed in-person, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The public may attend and comment in person or via teleconference. The conference telephone number and access code are published on our website. There is an opportunity for public comment at the beginning of the agenda. If you wish to speak at a meeting, please contact us in advance at 425-337-3647 (Ext. 212) so that we may call upon you at the appropriate time.

How to Pay Your Bill

Types of Payments Accepted

Check, money order, and credit card
(Visa, MasterCard, American Express)

Pay By DropBox

A payment drop box—for checks and money orders only—is available in the parking lot of our office at 15205 - 41st Avenue SE in Bothell.

Pay Online

www.slwsd.com

Pay By Phone

1-877-814-9773

Pay With Your Own Bank Bill Pay System

Please allow 7 business days for delivery

Pay In Person

15205 - 41st Avenue SE
Bothell, WA 98012-6114

Transaction Fee

There is a \$4.65 per transaction convenience fee when you pay with a debit/credit card or e-check (when paid by phone, website, or in person).

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In Case of Emergency

District staff are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to assist you with water and sewer emergencies.

(425) 337-3647

If you are calling after hours, press “1” to hold for an Emergency Operator.