

# Around the Lake

Water and Sewer-Related News and Information



## Four Steps Towards Sustainability!

by Commissioner John Warner

### Step 1: Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction

In 2010, the District took an initial step towards sustainability by adopting a Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction policy. This policy established goals for water conservation and more efficient energy use in District operations. Example of initial efforts included retrofitting light fixtures with LED fixtures, updating the HVAC controls at the District's headquarters for more efficient operation, and the use of Variable Frequency Drives for pumping of water and wastewater.

**Customer Sustainability Tip:** water conservation is also a significant way to reduce energy consumption, given that all water you use must be treated and pumped, and both efforts require significant energy use.



### Step 2: Biofuel and Electric Vehicles

In 2018, the policy was amended to include the District's fleet vehicles and established goals for use of biofuels and electrification. In 2019, the District took delivery of two hybrid vehicles.

We have found that these vehicles are well-suited to our use and less expensive to operate. A third hybrid vehicle, along with two battery electric vehicles, are currently on order for future delivery.



### Step 3: Solar Power for our Headquarters Building

In 2022, District staff applied for the Washington State Department of Commerce Solar Retrofit Grant and were successful in acquiring \$75,000 in funding to put towards installing 100 kW of solar power at the District Headquarters. In total, the state grant awarded \$1.4 million to 14 different projects, adding over 1 MW of power generation to public buildings. There have been significant changes to the project since inception, including the possibility of receiving an additional rebate of the project cost from the Federal Government.

The estimated project cost will be \$325,930. Of this cost, \$75,000 was awarded by the Commerce Grant. The Federal rebate may amount to an additional 40% reduction in the District's remaining costs.

The District expects this project to be completed in 2023.



### Step 4: Three New EV (Electric Vehicle) Chargers

In February, the District will be adding three SemaConnect Series 8 Level 2 Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers for use by customers, employees, and our future fleet vehicles. These charging stations will be able to provide 10kW per port. The initial cost to use the charger will be \$.15/kWh-enough to fill up the largest EVs for approximately \$15-much cheaper than the gasoline equivalent!

*If you have any questions or would like more information, feel free to give us a call at (425) 337-3647.*

# New Pass-Through Water and Sewer Rates for 2023

*In the late spring 2023, the Board of Commissioners will meet to consider raising utility rates to accommodate increases “passed through” to us from outside agencies. These changes typically take effect in May.*

Silver Lake Water and Sewer District purchases sewer treatment services and water from outside agencies. Each of these agencies has a different methodology to determine its rates, as well as a different schedule for when their rates go into effect.

- Sewage waste, once collected, is passed along for contracted treatment services by either the City of Everett or by King County Metro, through the Alderwood Water & Wastewater District (AWWD).
- Water is purchased directly from the City of Everett, or indirectly from the City of Everett—through the Clearview Water Supply Agency or the Alderwood Water & Wastewater District (AWWD).

The rates that the District pays to purchase water or provide sewer treatment is subject to an annual rate adjustment, according to the terms of the long-term contract agreements with each agency.

For customers, Pass-Through rate increases would take effect starting May 2023. Once the cumulative impact of rate adjustments is known, our Board of Commissioners may consider an additional rate increase due to inflationary pressures on other District costs, which would also take effect in May.

The Table below outlines the forecasted 2023 Water and Sewer Pass-Through rate increases based on preliminary information.

## 2023 Utility Rate Forecast—without District Inflation Adjustment

Single Family Water & Sewer Rates	Current Rate	2023 Pass-Through	2023 District	Forecast Rate	% Increase
Water Rate - Base	\$15.50	–	–	\$15.50	0.00%
Water Rate Per Unit - Winter	3.20	0.05	–	3.25	1.56%
Water Rate Per Unit - Summer	3.80	0.05	–	3.85	1.32%
Sewer Rate - Everett	70.95	3.20	–	74.15	4.51%
Sewer Rate - AWWD	68.50	3.15	–	71.65	4.60%

## Protect Your Pipes from Freezing in Winter

- Disconnect and drain garden hoses; protect outdoor faucets with a protective insulated cover (available at hardware stores).
- Insulate exposed pipes and faucets, particularly in areas where a water line enters the home (e.g., garage or crawl space).
- If you discover a frozen pipe, thaw it with rags soaked with hot water -OR- a hair dryer, space heater, or heating tape—but take special care to avoid contact with water when operating any electrical device. Do NOT use a torch or other flame source due to fire risk.

## Discounts for Low Income Seniors and Disabled Persons

*Silver Lake Water and Sewer District provides discounts to low income seniors and disabled persons. In 2022, this amounted to a reduction of \$66,970.80 for water and sewer rates, benefitting 232 customers. Do you qualify for a discount?*

The discount available to low income seniors or disabled persons is typically 50% for water (base rate only) and 25% for sewer. To qualify, your household income must not exceed \$55,743. Seniors must be age 61 or older. Disabled individuals must currently 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.

## How to Request the Discount:

If you meet the eligibility criteria, contact our Customer Service staff at (425) 337-3647 to obtain the application form, and return the completed form to us with the required documents to prove your eligibility. You may also download the form on our website at [www.slwsd.com](http://www.slwsd.com).



# Lift Station Projects Improve Your Sewer Infrastructure

A lift station is a pumping facility that moves wastewater from lower elevations to higher elevations. Incorporating lift stations at certain points in a gravity pipeline system is integral to moving sewage to a wastewater treatment plant efficiently and cost-effectively.

Silver Lake currently has 21 sewer lift stations in our wastewater system, several of which are 20 – 30 years old, and coming to the end of their service life with similar maintenance issues. In response, the District is planning to rehabilitate several of these existing lift stations over the next two to three years, and bring another three new lift stations online soon.

Following is a summary of each lift station project’s scope, cost, and timeline:

## Thomas Lake Sewer Lift Station Replacement

- **Scope** – Replace an existing station with three submersible pumps, increased capacity, a new backup generator, and electrical control building. The existing wet well will be converted to overflow storage.
- **Total estimated project cost** – \$2.9 million
- **Construction schedule** – Work underway, completion in early 2023

## Pioneer Trails Lift Station Replacement

- **Scope** – Replace an existing station with three submersible pumps, increased capacity, a new backup generator, and electrical control building. The existing 35-foot deep wet well will be converted to overflow storage.
- **Total estimated project cost** – \$4.1 million
- **Construction schedule** – Begin 2023, completion in 2024

## Lift Station No. 4 Improvements

- **Scope** – Replace the original generator for backup power, along with electrical controls and new canopy for weather protection.
- **Total estimated project cost** – \$600,000
- **Construction schedule** – Spring 2023 pending generator delivery

## Lift Station No. 3 Force Main Replacement

- **Scope** – Replace 3,700 feet of original 10-inch cast iron discharge force main with a new 12-inch pipe, along the 132nd Street SE / 134th Place SE corridor. Work will be done in advance of a Snohomish County paving project in 2024 in order to avoid expensive roadway restoration requirements.
- **Total estimated project cost** – \$2.6 million
- **Construction schedule** – 2023

## Larimer 1 Lift Station Replacement

- **Scope** – Replace an existing station with submersible pumps, a new backup generator, and electrical control building. The existing wet well will be converted to overflow storage.
- **Total estimated project cost** – \$2.8 million
- **Construction schedule** – 2024 to 2025

## Highlands East Lift Station Rehabilitation

- **Scope** – Rehabilitate an existing lift station to accommodate increased flow from new upstream developments. Scope is still TBD but may include replacement of motors and pumps, rehabilitating the wet well, new electrical controls, and site improvements.
- **Total estimated project cost** – \$1.5 million
- **Construction schedule** – 2024 to 2025



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Bothell, WA 98012-6114

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## Silver Lake Water & Sewer District

### Address

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

### Phone

### Fax

(425) 337-3647 (425) 337-4399

### Email

service@slwsd.com

### Office Hours

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 meet 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 we can 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  
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### Transaction Fee

A Convenience Fee of \$3.85 will be charged for all credit/debit card and ACH/EFT payments. Phone payments will be charged an additional \$0.75.

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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.