

All Customers of North City Water District Are Now Enjoying Brand New Electromagnetic Flow Water Meters

If you happened to see a worker digging around your water meter recently, you are probably one of the roughly 25,000 people served by North City Water District who received a brand new and (much) improved electromagnetic flow water meter!



During June and July 2014, North City Water District contracted with Vanguard Utility Service, Inc. to change out the old 3/4" and 1" mechanical water meters throughout our entire service area—ranging from Shoreline customers located on the east side of I-5, to Lake Forest Park customers on the west end, as well as all the locations in between. Resolutions 2013.03.15 and 2013.09.35

These new Sensus iPERL Electromagnetic Flow meters (pictured above) offer our customers and our staff all sorts of benefits:



Saving Time & Money

With the old meters, operations staff were required to physically read water meters on each and every customer's service line. The District crew was spending considerable hours each month reading water meters. Once we are finished replacing the approximately 5,000 meters, the District will spend less than 1 day each month reading meters—giving us more time to focus on other maintenance needed in the system.

Saving Water

The new meters will enable us to detect leaks much sooner, allowing us to notify customers of a leak long before a large amount of water is wasted.

Improving Safety

Walking from structure to structure to read water meters was a risk to our employees' safety—particularly along busy roadways such as Bothell Way or 15th Avenue NE. These new meters can be scanned for an electronic reading from up to 200 feet away... resulting in a faster process with significantly reduced safety risks.

Culminating a Seven Year Program

North City Water District first began replacing older meters along Bothell Way NE in 2007. Since then, the District expanded the program to other busy areas, and eventually our entire service area. For more information about this project or any other projects in your Water District, contact Denny Clouse, our Operations Manager at 206.362.8100.



North City Reservoir Update: Painting Underway, Pump Station Construction Starts Soon

North City Water District is getting phone calls about the reservoir located near the intersection of 15th Avenue NE and NE 177th Street... people like its new green color!

As described in our last newsletter, repainting this reservoir was not a simple task, since it was home to a number of wireless carriers antennas. In order to repaint it, all the antennas had to be temporarily relocated—requiring years (literally!) of detailed discussions, negotiations, and eventual new agreements with each wireless carrier.

Next, a large crane installed a brand new railing on top of the reservoir, enabling the wireless carriers to re-install their antennas, thus allowing the remainder of the painting to be completed once all the antennas were in place.

Meanwhile construction of the new Pump Station will go out for bid in August; the contract should be awarded in September, with construction starting soon after.

For more information about this project (Resolution 2014.02.06) or any other projects in your Water District, contact Denny Clouse, our Operations Manager at 206.362.8100.

CORRECTION IN THE NEWS

In the June issue of the City of Shoreline's magazine "Currents," the City stated that it would be assuming North City Water District at the end of the franchise agreement in 2028. That statement is incorrect. North City Water District has not agreed to be assumed by the City.

North City Water District's franchise agreement with the City of Shoreline has a non-assumption clause in which the City agrees to not take over the water utility for the duration of our agreement which runs through December 31, 2027.

The City's Utilities Element of the Comprehensive Plan at Goal U-11 says that the City will "Pursue alternative service provision options that may be more effective at providing service to our residents, including... examining options with regard to the expiration of the Shoreline [now North City] Water District franchise."

The correction should read as follows: "Towards the end of the franchise agreement in 2027, it is likely the City and the District will explore and discuss future water service options."

The commissioners and staff of North City Water District believe that single purpose governing of utilities (in the form of a "Special Purpose District" like ours) is more focused, responsive, and cost effective than general purpose government-managed utilities when it comes to providing service.

Unlike utilities managed by cities, a Special Purpose District does not have to address conflicting priorities, nor can we divert utility taxes to address other general fund issues such as animal control, transportation, land use planning, or budget deficits. As a Special Purpose District, North City Water District is focused on nothing but water, 365 days a year.



King County Awards NCWD!

North City Water District was recently named by King County's Solid Waste Division on their 2014 "Best Workplaces for Recycling and Waste Reduction" list—along with Ronald Wastewater District, the City of Shoreline, and

94 other companies and organizations—thanks to the tremendous popularity of the water bottle filling station we installed in our main Administrative building lobby.