

Street Light Rate Increase (or... how your Water District became responsible for street light billing)

Did you know that a large number of Special Purpose Districts (like ours) are responsible for street light billing? Here in the Shoreline/Lake Forest Park area, out of the 8,000+ accounts that we invoice for water services every other month, 260 of those accounts are also charged for street lights. How in the world did street light charges become the responsibility of a water district?

It all started back in 1956, when our area was unincorporated. The only way streetlights could be added to new residential developments in unincorporated areas was to find a local public agency able to handle installation, maintenance and billing. King County Water District No. 42 (our District's original name) was the only option for those 260 accounts.

Fast forward to today: Seattle City Light is responsible for street light maintenance in both Shoreline and Lake Forest Park, paid by an electricity contract from both cities. However, these original 260 accounts are not included in the contracts, so the District must continue to collect revenue to cover their street light costs. And because the cost to separate and transfer these 260 accounts would greatly exceed the amount collected for their maintenance, third party street light billing continues to this day.

If you're one of the 260 accounts whose water bill includes a line item for street lights, please note: Seattle City Light recently raised their street light rates in 2013, an increase which your Water District must likewise pass along to you. We do not charge any administrative fees for providing this service. Should you have questions about your street light billing, feel free to contact us at 206.362.8100.

District Manager Joins State Public Works Board

A few months ago, our District Manager Diane Pottinger, P.E. accepted the Governor's invitation to join Washington State's Public Works Board. The purpose of this Board is to provide low interest funding programs for infrastructure improvements to meet the public health, environment and economic development needs of Washington communities. Since the Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA) was established in 1985, over \$2.6 billion has been extended to counties, cities, water/sewer utilities and public utility districts across the state of Washington, including \$22.8 million awarded for infrastructure projects to our Water District, Ronald Wastewater District, and the Cities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park. Access to this fund has been a great benefit to our community.

Two Toilet Rebates Available!

Toilets account for nearly 30% of residential indoor water use. Did you know that you can cut your utility bills by \$50-\$200 a year (depending on the size of your household and usage habits), reduce water waste, AND get a rebate when you replace your old water-guzzling toilet with an efficient WaterSense model? North City Water District has teamed up with the Saving Water Partnership to offer our two rebates for residential customers:

The first \$30 WaterSense rebate ends on March 31, 2014. If you are in the Saving Water Partnership service area and have purchased a WaterSense toiled that uses less than 1.28 gallons per flush, you could be eligible.

The second is a \$75 rebate for a Premium WaterSense toilet, which uses even less water – 1.06 gallons per flush, with **no** expiration date announced so far!

To get either rebate, you must download and fill out an application from the Saving Water Partnership website at www.savingwater.org/Rebates, and send it in with a purchase receipt that includes the brand and model number for the toilet, as well as a copy of your bill to: Seattle Public Utilities, Attn: SFTP, 700 5th Ave, Ste 4900, PO Box 34018, Seattle, WA 98124-4018.

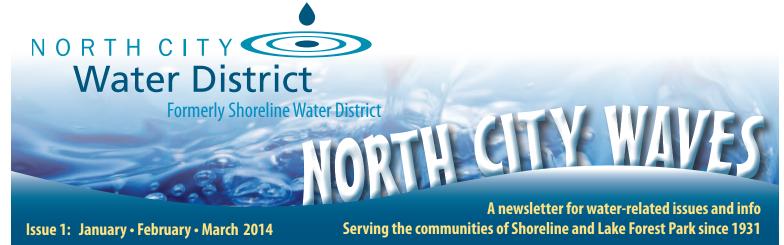
Rebates are also available for Multi-Family and Commercial customers... learn more at www.savingwater.org or call us at 206.362.8100 to see which programs you may be eligible for.

The North City Waves Newsletter is brought to you by North City Water District, and its Board of Commissioners:

Charlotte Haines (President), Ron Ricker (Vice President), and Larry Schoonmaker (Secretary). Feel free to contact us at PO Box 55367, or 1519 NE 177th Street, Shoreline, WA 98155. 206.362.8100 • www.northcitywater.org







From Our Board...

by Charlotte Haines, President

With a new year comes change, the most noticeable of which is our new name: North City Water District.

During the 83 years that we've been providing safe, reliable drinking water to the community, we've changed names twice: from "King County Water District No. 42" to "Shoreline Water District" in 1992; and now to "North City Water District" to reflect our more diverse service area, and prevent confusion as the City of Shoreline seeks to enter the water business. We invite you to read all about it in the article inside. Other new changes include a brand new website, built on a cost-efficient, universal platform that is easier to update and evolve, as well as a nev District Facebook page! As it relates to our water system, we recently completed our Water System Plan Update (something that we do every six years); replaced our aging, undersized Administrative Building with a facility that is projected to last another 50 years, and will soon be upgrading the Pump Station at our 3.7 MG North City reservoir. Despite all of these improvements and changes, the District will not be increasing water rates this year.



North City Waves Newsletter ~ a publication by North City Water District

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Water System Plan Approved for North City Water District (formerly Shoreline Water District)

Your Water District recently received approval from the planning agencies, Washington State Department of Health, and King County Council on our most recent update to our Water System Plan. This plan concludes several years of effort to update the prior plan with a new hydraulic model, water use efficiency plan, capital improvement plan and rate study.

The State's Health Department and King County require Water System Plans to be updated every 6 years. This current plan meets the requirements of the Water System Design Manual, which was developed to ensure "all public water systems shall provide an adequate quantity and quality of water in a reliable manner at all times consistent with the requirements of this chapter" (WAC 246-290-420). "Reliability" applies to expectations that consumers may have in obtaining sufficient water at an acceptable pressure.

"We are pleased to receive the news of the plan's approval," commented Board of Commissioners' President Charlotte Haines. "North City Water District takes great pride in our system—not only keeping it up to date with the current regulations, but taking a more proactive approach towards larger reinvestments into our system. Our management team is constantly analyzing value engineering options to improve our system at the lowest possible cost."

The Water District has come a long way from their first Water System Plan back in 1932, which included capital improvements for 46 miles of water mains, a 100,000 gallon water reservoir, and the associated costs of constructing and establishing a water system (Resolution 5), which was financed by selling bonds in the amount of \$194,000 (Resolution 17). However the philosophy of that first Board of Commissioners has remained unchanged: to

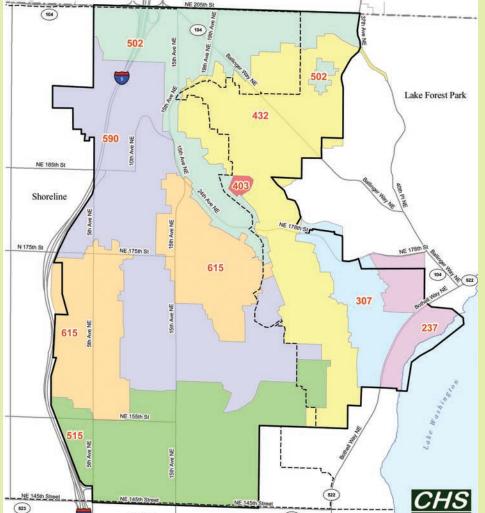
provide quality drinking water at cost effective rates to our rate payers.

Today's Commissioners Charlotte Haines, Ron Ricker and Larry Schoonmaker have adopted a plan for improvements totalling \$24.5 million over the next 10 years, with rate increases between 3-5% annually to address the ever-rising costs of water and construction.

"If there's a fire anywhere in our system, or if services were shut down because of an emergency, our water system is still able to deliver—including adequate fire flow—even if we had no power or additional water sources," stated Commissioner Haines. "We are proud to maintain such an outstanding level of cost effective

water service."

If you have questions about our water system, we welcome you to contact our District Manager, Diane Pottinger, P.E. at 206.362.8100.





Even though "Shoreline Water District" sounds like a water utility owned and/or coordinated by the City of Shoreline, many residents had no idea that the District is an entirely separate public entity. In fact, Shoreline residents are served by TWO ENTIRELY SEPARATE water utilities:

- Shoreline Water District serves Shoreline residents on the EAST side of I-5, along with another 40% of Lake Forest Park residents. We were incorporated in 1931, and have been using the name "Shoreline" since 1992 (the City incorporated in 1995).
- **Seattle Public Utilities (SPU)** serves Shoreline's residents on the WEST side of I-5; the City of Shoreline is hoping to eventually purchase and manage this portion of the system (as per Proposition 1 in 2012).

If the City of Shoreline is able to negotiate a sale with the City of Seattle for the SPU portion of the water system in Shoreline, water service will continue to be provided by two entirely separate entities. However, if both of these entities share the same "Shoreline" name, there's a strong chance that residents will continue to be confused.

In a proactive move to avoid this problem, our Board of Commissioners voted to change our name. We solicited ideas from the community, narrowed them down, and voted in September 2013 to change our name to North City Water District (Resolution 2013.09.36), which was approved by King County in December 2013 (Ordinance 17723).

A new name not only eliminates the current confusion, it more clearly communicates the diversity of our service area, and frees up the old "Shoreline" name for the City of Shoreline if / when they create their new water utility.

Effective January 1, 2014, Shoreline Water District is now known as North City Water District. To keep costs at a minimum, the changeover will occur gradually. When we renovated our Administrative Headquarters building, we inserted a temporary placard into the new sign to make it easy to swap out. Our website was already being upgraded, printed materials (letterhead, brochure, etc.) will not be changed until we run out of current supplies.

For more information, feel free to give us a call at 206.362.8100.

Refill and Recharge at Your Water District!

Did you know? Our new Administrative Headquarters building offers two handy new features: a water bottle filler and an electric car charging station!



You'll find the water bottle refiller inside our Main Office, at the far end of the lobby, complete with a counter that keeps track of the number of water bottles filled since it was installed. Why buy and use refillable water bottles? We recommend watching the movie "Tapped" to learn more:

Stream "Tapped" on Netflix:

http://movies.netflix.com/Movie/Tapped/70124097

Visit the "Tapped" movie website: http://www.tappedthemovie.com



Meanwhile, our two electric car charging stations are located in the parking lot at the back of the building. With only one other charging station available east of I-5 in Shoreline and Lake Forest Park, our station is quickly becoming well-known. Cost for charging is \$0.49/ hour for the first two hours, \$1/hour thereafter for a maximum cost of \$10. Although the District does not currently own any electric vehicles, this station gives us the option to purchase an electric vehicle in the future!