



## 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 toilet 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.northcitywater.org)

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# NORTH CITY Water District

Formerly Shoreline Water District

## NORTH CITY WAVES

A newsletter for water-related issues and info

Serving the communities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park since 1931

Issue 1: January • February • March 2014

### 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 new 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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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!