



Coal Creek Utility District
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CCUD RATES TO CHANGE

The Coal Creek Utility District Board of Commissioners adopted new water and sewer rates for 2012 at its January 11th meeting.

The rate increase will help maintain the District's water and sewer systems and fund critical infrastructure improvements necessary to ensure safe and reliable service for the District's customers. In addition, more than half of the water rate increase is due to an increase in the cost of water the District purchases from Seattle Public Utilities. Like many other utility districts, CCUD purchases water from Seattle and wastewater treatment from King County Wastewater Treatment Division.

"We take any discussion of water and sewer rates very seriously, especially in these tough economic times," said Board President Pamela Martin. "We also conducted an extensive and open public comment process as we considered these new rates. I believe we've met our responsibilities to maintain and improve our systems and to protect our customers as well."

In 2011 the District's financial consultants performed a study of the District's finances and advised that higher water costs from Seattle Public Utilities, facility improvement requirements and an overall decline in water use resulting from cooler, wetter summers in 2010 and 2011 would require a rate increase to make vital system improvements and keep the District's credit rating at a sufficiently high level—which allows the District to finance water and sewer projects at the best possible interest rate. The new rates are actually lower than those first proposed by District financial consultants.

The District conducted an extensive public input process as it considered these measures with two separate study sessions in December and a public hearing on January 5th.

The average single-family household will see their monthly water bill increase \$4.48 and their monthly sewer bill increase approximately \$0.80 in 2012. Sewer rates are scheduled to increase 4.5% in 2012 and 2013 and 3.5% in 2014. Water rates are scheduled to increase 12% —with more than half of that increase due to the higher cost of water purchased from Seattle Public Utilities— 6% in 2013 and 3.25% in 2014.

The new rates take effect February 1, 2012. After that, CCUD customers, who use the system-wide average of 1400cf, will still pay less than a penny per gallon of water.

CCUD is also one of the only water systems in the region that has been fully upgraded to ductile iron pipe which prevents leaks, saves our water resource and protects water quality as well. Reinvestment in its system helps the District operate safely and more efficiently.

The Coal Creek Utility District's mission is to provide the highest quality water and sewer service at the most cost-efficient rates for the customers it serves. The District operates a water and sewer service area covering the city of Newcastle and surrounding areas.

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