



THE PIPELINE

Fall 2018
Issue 92

Serving this Community
since 1943.

Keeping Lakewood Water District
Customers Informed

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Commissioner Meeting Highlights

April
Board Adoption of Resolution No. B-1444—
Bond Anticipation Note
Board Award of Lake Steilacoom R&R Project
Board Conditional Acceptance of Completion of
Silcox-Rose R&R Project

May
Board Adoption of Resolution No. B-1445—
Eminent Domain, Nyanza Tank Site
Board Authorization of Eminent Domain for
Wholesale Transmission Main Extension
Project

June
Board Adoption of Resolution No. B-1446—
Eminent Domain, Wholesale Transmission
Main Extension

August
Board Approval of 2019
Liability Insurance Renewal
Board Award of Engineering and Design Contracts
for Nyanza Tank Replacement and
Well Assessment Projects
Board Conditional Acceptance of
Sylvan Park R&R Project Phase 3
Board Conditional Acceptance of
WTME/Waller Road Water Main Project
Board Conditional Acceptance of
Bridgeport & 104th Tank Interior Recoat Project

For more information, please visit our website. *

Dear Lakewood Water Customers,

Much has occurred at your water district since we last wrote to you in the Spring edition of "The Pipeline" (we let our Water Quality & Annual Business Report serve as our summer message to you). We've celebrated our 75th Anniversary, had a record-breaking summer, had two veteran employees retire, drilled a new well, and dedicated a tank, just to name a few of the highlights. Our 50-year R&R Program got out to the areas of Sylvan Park, Silcox-Rose, Lake Steilacoom Drive, and 112th; and we're at 90 percent on the design of our Wholesale Transmission Main Extension. This 6.8-mile pipeline extension will enable the District to expand its wholesale water service as a regional provider, making beneficial and profitable use of its excess water.

On the water quality front, we have been presented with a new set of culprits called PFOS and PFOA (generally referred to as PFAS...we'll spare you the long, technical terms) which have shown up in our wells closest to JBLM. We believe this to be from years of firefighting retardant being washed into the ground, seeping into JBLM wells (they've shut down five) and, now, found in low levels in some of our wells that are in the same aquifer as theirs. Our levels are below the EPA's current health advisory level at all the wells, but at the Ponders site (the one closest to the base), the levels have become too close for our comfort. So, the District is being proactive and has shut down the wells at that site, and we're evaluating treatment that would take out the PFAS. We're monitoring the other affected wells carefully, and we're prepared to take action if needed. You can find more information in the article in this edition of our newsletter and on our website at www.lakewoodwater.org. In the meantime, be assured that your water quality is of utmost importance and our highest priority, and your District will continue to be very proactive in this matter.

We've begun our annual budget process. Our staff is sharpening their pencils to, once again, do all in our power to make the very best decisions to take the best care of the District with the funds so graciously provided by you, our ratepayers. We take this process and responsibility—and the stewardship of your hard-earned dollars—very seriously. In our next newsletter, we'll have more news about the outcomes. In the meantime, thank you for being a faithful Lakewood Water District customer.

We trust you had a great summer but are now enjoying a welcomed break from the heat!

Sincerely,
Your Board of Commissioners

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Lawrence R. Ghilarducci, Jr.
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General Manager:
Randall M. Black

The Board of Commissioners meets
the 3rd Thursday of each month
at the District
office - 3:30 pm.
Public Welcome



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Our Water, Our Community, Our Commitment

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New Treatment Needed at Ponders Wellsite

Providing excellent water quality to our customers is the top priority of Lakewood Water District. As part of that commitment, the District has been voluntarily testing our wells for perfluoroalkyl substances, referred to as PFAS. Through the testing, we have found increasing levels of two types of PFAS at our Ponders Wellsite—PFOS and PFOA.

While the detected levels are below the EPA's health advisory level, we are being proactive in evaluating treatment options, primarily a GAC (Granular Activated Carbon) system. This treatment would remove the PFAS to below EPA health advisory levels, which are designed to protect even the most sensitive populations over a lifetime of exposure. The wellsite's existing treatment facilities are aging and will be replaced later this year. The installation of GAC treatment may be part of the same project. The Ponders wells have already been taken offline.

The most likely source of the PFAS is firefighting foam that was used at Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM) for decades. PFAS has been found in wells at JBLM, and our Ponders wellsite is located close to the base. PFAS has been detected at three of our other wells but is still well below health advisory levels at those locations. We are continuing to monitor levels at those wells. Water quality is our number one priority, and we are committed to serving our customers only water that is at or below EPA health advisory levels.

Nationally, researchers are learning more about other types of PFAS that do not yet have EPA health advisory levels. We are carefully tracking this new research and will continue to keep water quality and the health of our customers as our top priority.

More information on PFAS is available on our website at www.lakewoodwater.org.

Dedication of the David G. Hall Tank

On Friday, September 14, 2018, Lakewood Water District dedicated its newest tank (Hemlock 2, constructed in 2006) to Dave Hall. Dave has been, over his 30 years at the District, a hardworking, dedicated, and thoughtful member of Lakewood Water District. He retired this summer as the District's Pumping and Water Treatment Operations Department Head. This position allowed Dave to be the spearhead of technological innovations for the District. Whether working on highly detailed reports, or slogging in the ditch putting water main in, Dave did his work with a determination and an attention to detail that is very hard to come by today.

Dave acted as the District's Project Manager on numerous projects including five Iron and Manganese removal/treatment facilities, a 0.5 MG hydropillar tank, seven booster pump stations, multiple PRV stations, and two major office remodels. Dave was a presenter for the South Sound Subsection's Water Works 101 class and devised and conducted numerous in-house training programs. And yes, he is a self-published author, if you can count the District's Emergency Response Plan, The Hazard Mitigation Plan, and The Pumping Training Manual. Dave knows the water industry inside and out but is never boastful.

Naming the new tank at Hemlock after Dave will cement him into the history of this great organization and will be a reminder for generations to come of his dedication, contributions to Lakewood Water District and, most of all, his kindness.

Tank dedications have historically been reserved for honoring past Commissioners and General Managers, but your Board of Commissioners and General Manager, along with the entire District staff, were very proud to name the 135-foot high, 0.5 million-gallon hydropillar on Hemlock Hill the David G. Hall Tank. We all thank Dave for all he accomplished in his 30 years of service and wish him every good thing in a long and happy retirement.

Happy Retirement, Warren Slep!

On Friday, August 10, 2018, we bade farewell to Warren Slep, the District's Water Quality and Cross Connection Control Specialist, retiring after a little over 17 years of faithful service to the District. Warren began his journey with the District as a Meter Reader, and he is still the only one who has ever known where every meter in the District is by memory!

Warren plans to enjoy his retirement in many ways, including traveling with his family in his new Flying Cloud Airstream trailer. We miss him but wish him all the best!



Happy Retirement, Warren Flying Cloud.

Warren and the unofficially renamed Warren Slep D Well backwash Tank.



Commissioners and GM join Dave and his family for a commemorative photo.