

THE PIPELINE

Serving this community since 1943
Keeping Lakewood Water District Customers Informed
www.lakewoodwater.org

Board of Commissioners

Published by
Lakewood Water District
11900 Gravelly Lake Dr. SW
Lakewood, WA 98499



President
John Korsmo Jr.



Vice President
Greg Rediske



Secretary
Gary Barton



General Manager
Randall M. Black

Board of Commissioners meets
the 3rd Thursday of each
month at the District Office at
3:30 PM

Public is welcome to attend



Dear Lakewood Water District Customer,

On December 15, 2022, the Board of Commissioners passed the 2023 Budget. This was a very challenging budget due to *Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances* (PFAS) and the unknowns. The theme was "Minimizing PFAS Impacts While Delivering on Customer Expectations."

The District's PFAS strategy plan focuses on the recently enacted State Action Levels (SAL) adopted by the State of Washington. The PFAS plan is a non-budgeted capital cost is estimated today between \$7.0 million to \$21.0 million, depending on the circumstances of going deeper in the aquifer on three existing wells and two replacement wells.

The District worked on reducing the cost impacts of PFAS on our ratepayers by seeking available funding sources such as grants from the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and money through the State Revolving Funds and other available grant opportunities.

Lakewood Water District is committed to providing its customers with water service that meets or exceeds all water quality standards, maintaining policies and practices that benefit the health and welfare of the community.

If you have any questions regarding PFAS or for other news about your District, please see our website www.lakewoodwater.org for more information.

Sincerely,

Your Board of Commissioners

The Wholesale Transmission Main Extension **is now complete** with the final addition of Spanaway Water Co. Below are the Wholesale Water partners and when they started to receive water from the District.

- Town of Steilacoom 1997
- Summit Water & Supply Co 2012
- Washington Water 2018
- Firgrove Mutual Water Company 2019
- Spanaway Water Company 2022





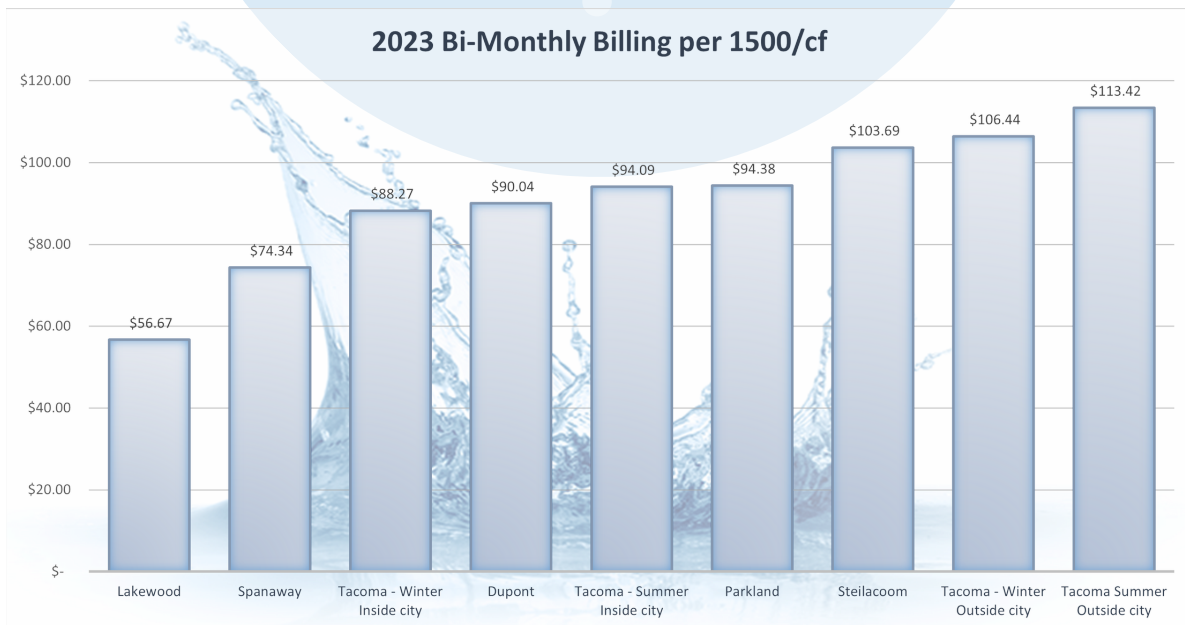
2023 RATE INCREASE

The District manages to its Financial Policies as set by the Board to preserve the financial health of the District and maintain annual cash reserves at appropriate levels as prescribed in the policies. The District continues to adhere to its Five-year Rate Forecast as approved by the Board. The forecast projected a 6.67 percent rate increase for 2023. With the continued rise of operating and maintenance costs including the District's steady investment in capital projects with an emphasis on mitigating PFAS compounds, the rate model continues to show a need for a rate increase of 6.67 percent weighted average for 2023. As always, your Board continues to work hard to keep rate increases to a minimum.

This increase covers both 1) the volume charge and base charge to fund general operation, maintenance, and other capital projects (2023 Bi-Monthly Rate Structure table below); and 2) the fixed fee based on meter size to fund the District's 50-year R&R (Replacement and Rehabilitation) Program (R&R Fixed Fee Based on Meter Size table below).

Therefore, the 2023 Budget includes an overall, weighted rate increase of 6.67 percent, effective January 1, 2023, with the first billings reflecting the increase to be on or after March 1, 2023.

The cost for an average residential customer with a 5/8-inch meter and use of 1500 cubic feet of water will be \$56.67 versus the present \$53.25, for an increase of \$3.42 every two months (\$1.71 per month). This does not include the City of Lakewood's 6.00 percent Franchise Fee.



DID YOU KNOW?

- 75% of the human brain is water and 75% of a living tree is water.
- A person can live about a month without food, but only about a week without water.



CONTACT US

Please update your mailing address, phone number, and email address if there have been any changes.

Please contact our office directly at 253-588-4423 or email csweb@lakewoodwater.org