



# THE PIPELINE

Spring 2022  
Issue 102

Serving this community  
since 1943

Keeping Lakewood Water  
District customers  
informed:

[www.lakewoodwater.org](http://www.lakewoodwater.org)

Click on: About Us

Published by  
Lakewood Water  
District

11900 Gravelly Lake  
Drive SW  
Lakewood, WA 98499

Mon.-Thur.  
8:00am-5:30pm  
&  
Fri.  
8:00am-4:30pm

Phone:  
(253) 588-4423

BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS

**President:**  
John S. Korsmo, Jr.

**Vice President:**  
Gregory J. Rediske

**Secretary:**  
Gary J. Barton

**General Manager:**  
Randall M. Black

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

Public is Welcome



[www.lakewoodwater.org](http://www.lakewoodwater.org)

## Dear Lakewood Water District Customer,

Spring is in the air and so is a high amount of tree pollen and warming temperatures. As we draft this spring's newsletter, daylight savings time will have arrived. We are also taking off our masks now, however, maybe we should keep them on to help with our allergies! We hope you will enjoy this time of year; a time for renewal, growth, and more time in your day to accomplish your outdoor projects.

### Commissioner Meeting Highlights

#### January

- Commissioner Gary J. Barton was sworn in
- Board Award of the 112th Street to Pacific Highway to South Tacoma Way R&R Project
- Board Award of the 39th Ave SW & Halcyon Ave R&R Project

#### February

- Board approved staff to investigate the Abitibi Wells

#### March

- Board Award of the Generator, Electrical and Seismic Improvements Project

Your Lakewood Water District is also looking to accomplish many of its replacement and rehabilitation projects this year; new water mains, new wells, and continued maintenance of its systems. Some of these projects could qualify for funding through the Federal Infrastructure Bill that we are sure you have heard about. We are hopeful that the District will qualify and receive these federal stimulus grants. We want to thank our federal and state representatives and budget committees for supporting our District with these federal funds.

The Infrastructure Bill includes appropriations for two programs of interest: the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and the Toxic Cleanup (Superfund) program. Current estimates from the EPA are that the State of Washington DWSRF should receive around \$120 million for the federal fiscal year 2022, with approximately \$63 million of that set aside for lead service lines. The balance of about \$57 million for 2022 should be available to help support PFAS mitigation.

Both funding sources discussed here are existing programs at the federal and state level. This means that the funds appropriated should be able to flow through existing long-standing channels. It is unknown at this time when funds will be available.

We are very thankful that we were able to continue uninterrupted service to our customers throughout the pandemic, navigating the spikes, highs, and lows of Covid-19 outbreaks. We became very aware that our systems, policies, and built-in redundancies were tested over the last two years, and we are glad to report that we passed those tests with flying colors.

Now, as the masks come off, we look forward to this year with our theme, "*Focusing on Tomorrow, Today.*" We also look forward to seeing, talking to, and hearing from you, our customers.

Sincerely,

*Your Board of Commissioners*

*Focusing on  
Tomorrow,  
Today!*



For updates on Lakewood Water District projects please see our website [www.lakewoodwater.org](http://www.lakewoodwater.org) &

Facebook & Twitter pages @LakewoodWater

**Major Programs** for the District are underway with valve turning and hydrant maintenance going on right now. System wide flushing will be starting in mid-March, please watch out for District employees and please drive carefully through any water that may be on the roadway.

For updates when we are in your area, please see our Facebook & Twitter pages @LakewoodWater



### 2022 Rate Increase

Just a reminder that the new rate increase went in to effect March 1, 2022. If you have any questions, please call our office at 253-588-4423.

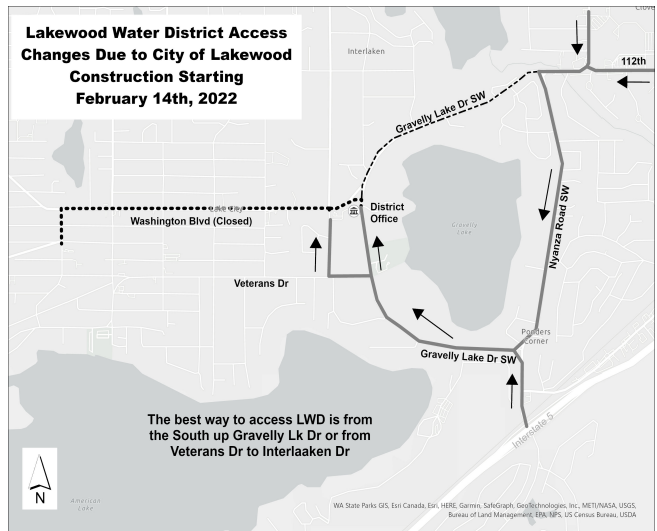
The District manages to its Financial Policies as set by the Board to preserve the financial health of the District and maintain annual cash reserves at appropriate levels as prescribed in the policies. The District continues to adhere to its Five-year Rate Forecast as approved by the Board. The forecast projected a 6.01 percent rate increase for 2022; however, with rising operation and maintenance costs including higher capital project costs, the rate model shows a need for a rate increase of 6.68 percent weighted average for 2022. Additionally, the District has not done a rate increase since 2019 and has kept the same rates through 2021 due to COVID concerns. As always, your Board continues to work hard to keep any and all 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 (2022 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 2022 Budget includes an overall, weighted rate increase of 6.68 percent, effective January 1, 2022, with the first billings reflecting the increase to be on or after March 1, 2022.

In the table to the right, you see the new bi-monthly charges. The cost for an average residential customer with a 5/8-inch meter and use of 1500 cubic feet of water will be \$53.25 versus the present \$50.06, for an increase of \$3.19 every two months (\$1.60 per month). This does not include the City of Lakewood's 6.00 percent Franchise Fee.

### Driving Directions to Lakewood Water District Office During Construction



### BI-MONTHLY BILLING PER 1500/CF

