

# THE PIPELINE

Serving this community since 1943  
Keeping Lakewood Water District Customers Informed  
[www.lakewoodwater.org](http://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**  
Marshall Meyer, P.E.

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,

Thank you for a wonderful 2023! The District staff continues to work hard to fulfill our mission of serving healthy communities through responsible water practices. *Below are some highlights from the past year.*

### PFAS

Understanding and addressing PFAS has been a priority for the District since we were first made aware of its detection on JBLM 2016. In 2023, the EPA announced a proposed MCL for PFAS that caused the District to move up its timeline for drilling new wells and installing Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration systems. Staff have worked diligently to find funding through grants and low-interest loans. The District secured a little over \$18.4 Million of funding for four PFAS projects (\$8.4 million at 2.25%, \$10 million at 1.38%). The District also received grant funding \$3.85 million from State and Federal funds. These funding options allowed the District to go from a proposed 11.4% rate increase to 8.0%.

### Summer Water Usage

As usual, our well-trained crew didn't miss a beat, pumping an average of 20.8 million gallons of water daily from June through August to meet the summer demands. The District's average in the offseason is about 11 million gallons per day (mgd).

### Partnering to Save Money

The District continues to partner with the City of Lakewood on projects to save our ratepayers money! For example, partnering with the City on their Washington Blvd. project allowed the District to replace the water main as part of the District's R&R program, saving District ratepayers hundreds of thousands of dollars that the District would have spent if we had done the project ourselves. This is just one way the District is saving the ratepayers money.

### New General Manager

The District has a new General Manager! Marshall Meyer, P.E. was promoted from Engineering Manager to General Manager effective December 1, 2023. Randall M. Black was the District's General Manager for the last 29.5 years. Randy is staying on as a Consulting Manager until he officially retires on February 28, 2024.

Sincerely,  
**Your Board of Commissioners**



# SANDY RAE IS RETIRING



**Alexander “Sandy” Rae Foreman/ Safety Officer/ Fleet Manager  
is retiring after 25 years with the District.**

Sandy Rae has worked for Lakewood Water District for 25 years and has worn many hats during his tenure here. None as important as the three he has worn now for several years as Foreman and Safety/Maintenance. Over Sandy's career, he has taken pride in always looking out for our ratepayers. Sandy worked with vendors and suppliers, always challenging them to ensure the District received the lowest price possible. Sandy often came out on top with a lower price than we had expected to see, which he would wear as a badge of honor.

Sandy would tell you he has enjoyed being the go-to guy on anything in and around the office, such as maintenance needs or handling small works projects, providing oversight to ensure things go well. There are so many ways that Sandy would show his care for staff by briefing them on safety requirements and ensuring proper equipment and tools were available. On long and complex jobs, many times Sandy would bring out food or Gatorade to the crew so they could continue working on the project and ensuring they knew he appreciated their hard work. One of the things that I will miss the most about Sandy is when he would come by my office and say good morning, and I would ask him how he was doing; he always would answer back, *"Just another day in paradise!"* I think his comment fully encapsulates his love and passion for working at the District. ~ *Former General Manager Randall M. Black*

Sandy’s hand is in so many areas of the District – whether it be in the field on repairs, taking care of building maintenance, spearheading safety, or ensuring our fleet is well maintained. Sandy’s contributions to the District cannot be overstated. Thank you, Sandy, for your many years of dedicated service and outstanding contributions! ~ *General Manager Marshall Meyer*



## 2024 RATE INCREASE

The District manages 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. Last year’s forecast projected an 11.39% rate increase for 2024. 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. However, due to the hard work of securing grants and low interest loans and managing expenses, the updated forecast now shows a needed rate increase of 8.0% weighted average for 2024. As always, your Board continues to work hard to keep rate increases to a minimum.

**8% Weighted Average Increase = \$2.17 Increase/Month**

1500CF Billing	2023	2024
FIXED BI-MONTHLY	\$ 9.50	\$10.35
VOLUME BI-MONTHLY	\$14.07	\$15.33
R&R FEE (5/8”) BI-MONTHLY	\$33.08	\$35.07
CITY OF LAKEWOOD FRANCHISE FEE	\$ 3.40	\$ 3.65
TOTAL BI-MONTHLY:	\$60.05	\$64.40

\*Effective March 1, 2024