



THE PIPELINE

Spring 2014
Issue 75

Serving this Community
since 1943.

Keeping Lakewood Water District
Customers Informed

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Randall M. Black

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



*www.lakewood-water-dist.org

Dear Customers,

Every three months we get a reminder from our very efficient Executive Assistant that customers of the District are waiting breathlessly for a message from your commissioners to fill page one of "The Pipeline," our quarterly report to you on the "happenings" at the District.

Coming up with something new sometimes can be difficult. For starters, what's new about pumping water out of the ground, distributing it to you, and collecting money for it? Nothing. "Seattle 43 - Denver 8" is now old (but exciting) news. That we have recently committed to and budgeted for the commencement of our 50-year R&R Program and a short-term Meter Replacement Program is not old (but not really current) news, given all of the information with which we have bombarded you this past year. What is current to report, however, is first, our new (and ongoing) "Commissioner Meeting Highlights." While the events of our monthly meetings may not be breathtakingly exciting to many, we do want to share the highlights of those meetings with you each quarter. The second current matter to report is that the Meter Replacement Program will commence within months and, hopefully, be completed before year-end, and, lastly, in addition to budgeting for them, we have now taken the steps necessary to actually pay for both the Meter Replacement Program and the 50-year R&R Program.

Commissioner Meeting Highlights

January 2014

The Board of Commissioners accepted an amendment to Resolution No. B-1413 which includes an annual 3 percent inflation escalator in the R & R construction costs.

The Board authorized the General Manager to negotiate a contract for the District's AMI Meter Replacement Program with Sensus.

The 2014 Developer's Extension Agreement was approved by the Board of Commissioners.

February 2014

The Board awarded the Telemetry/SCADA/ Telecommunications system upgrade to S&B.

For more information, please visit our website. *

You are beginning to experience the first step of this payment plan directly in your bills reflecting the imposition of our new rate structure.

Step two is borrowing necessary funds through the issuance of bonds.

The rate structure is expected to produce sufficient revenue to service the bonded indebtedness as it is incurred as well as to fund our normal ongoing capital expenditures and operating expenses.

The third step to be taken is not new. That is fulfilling our continuing duty to operate the District efficiently and successfully in order to satisfy our financial obligations and our ongoing mission to provide you, our 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."

One last thought. Do you ever wonder about those people who spend \$2.00 a piece (or more at the "Clink" and Safeco Field) on those little bottles of Evian water? Try spelling Evian backwards: NAIVE. Come on folks, use our "stuff." It's every bit as good and one heck-of-a-lot cheaper.

Enjoy your spring.

Most sincerely,
Your Board of Commissioners

Superintendent's Summary:

There are several things happening around the District this quarter. We are kicking off our 50-year R&R Program with our first project on Lakeholme Road SW and Woodholme Street SW. We will be upgrading 2800 linear feet of the existing main size to 8-inch ductile iron pipe, replacing the 42 existing services to the meters, and in a few cases, relocating services to more effective locations. Next on the R&R project list is to finish design and get out to bid the Sylvan Park Main Replacement Project, Phase 1. This will replace nearly a mile of main starting from our tank site at 88th and Pine Streets and running west on 88th past Carol Street and continuing on to Loraine Avenue South; then heading south down Loraine and Carol to 92nd Street South.

In conjunction with the Repair and Replacement (R&R) projects, we are finalizing contracts and preparing for a full, system-wide AMI Meter Replacement Program for the District. This work will commence in late June and should be concluded by the end of the year. All active meters in the system will be replaced with highly accurate and durable new meters. The new meters will communicate via radio to collectors mounted on District facilities where the meter reports will be collected and then sent to the District office via phone. The new meters will report their readings automatically without staff having to go out and read them individually as is done currently.

As part of the Meter Replacement Program, we will be installing a sophisticated computer hardware and software suite at the District that will allow for more timely and detailed, accurate customer service information, including nearly real-time meter reads while you wait on the phone; shorter leak detection windows, including daily alerts from the meters on potential water leaks; and a customer portal that will allow you to view your account status online and get notifications from the District automatically by e-mail or even text messages with regards to potential leaks, high usage, or usage during times when you are not in town.

We are looking forward to getting these programs in place and running, so we can better serve our rate payers in the months and years to come. Please don't forget to follow the activities of the District on our website at www.lakewood-water-dist.org. We look forward to updating you on our progress in the next edition of *The Pipeline*.



Spotlight on our Staff — Jacob Lea



Jacob joined the Lakewood Water District team on April 29, 2013, coming from the City of Kent Water Department where he worked as a temporary employee. Jacob came to us with nine years of private underground utility/site development experience and almost one year of public works experience, including a 3-month seasonal stint with the Town of Steilacoom Public Works Department.

A Water Utility Worker I, Jacob is a part of the Service Crew. His work includes installing and/or repairing and maintaining water mains, service lines, meters, valves, and hydrants. Jacob says he most enjoys the mechanical parts of his work, working with the rest of the Service Crew, and helping to get customers back in water service when it's been interrupted by a main break.

When he's not working, Jacob enjoys reading, playing sports (all kinds), and spending time with his family. An uncle of 12, he spends a lot of time mentoring his nephews who live near his home in Orting. Jacob grew up in Enumclaw, Washington and graduated high school there. He obtained an Associate of Arts degree from Green River Community College in Auburn and a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from University of Washington.

We're glad to have Jacob on our team. We hope you will never be out of water due to a water main break, but if you ever are, be assured that Jacob will be amongst the very capable crew coming to the rescue!