

The Pipeline



Issue 42

Keeping Lakewood Water District Customers Informed

FALL, 2005

“SERVING THIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1943”

From Your Commissioners

Dear Lakewood Water District Customer,

In the spring of 2003, we told you about the District's quest to obtain the groundwater rights previously serving the Abitibi Mill in Steilacoom, located at the mouth of Chambers Bay. The plant closed down in December 2000 after more than 50 years of operation. Its owners contracted with the District in November 2002 to purchase the bulk of the mill's considerable inventory of water rights with an option to buy the remainder.

These water rights, measured in millions of gallons a day (MGD), represent such a large quantity that just a portion will ensure that our community will have an adequate water supply at least to the year 2040. We have been working with neighboring utilities to share the cost of acquiring these water rights by making available the rest of the water for purchase and delivery at wholesale rates. The District has had a contract with Summit Water & Supply Co. for the delivery of up to 2.0 MGD for over a year, and we have a contract in the works with Fruitland Mutual Water Co. for 1.5 to 2.0 MGD.

These are very similar to our agreement with the Town of Steilacoom. It enables us to very efficiently maximize the usage of the supply, get the maximum benefit from economies of scale, and partially offset the cost of acquisition by our ratepayers. It truly is a win-win-win situation. We get all the water we need at a significantly lower cost, our partners get the water they need at a lower cost, and we minimize the impact on the environment by taking the deep groundwater at the exit point of the watershed along Puget Sound, rather than in the more environmentally sensitive Foothills Region to our East. Further, water used upstream in the basin will result in a corresponding increase in the amount of residential water discharged to the shallow groundwater via septic systems, leaking pipes, and related uses.

Finally, after many months of jumping through a mind-boggling array of governmental and regulatory “hoops,” the District has received final approval of its application with the Department of Ecology to purchase up to 6 million gallons per day!

Again, this acquisition benefits the District in two important ways. First, it provides us with an additional source of water to fulfill the needs of the District's customers for decades to come. Second, this water when added to our existing sources, presently results in a substantial surplus which we can sell to our neighboring water purveyors whose supplies are limited. The revenues from these sales will allow us to minimize future rate increases despite the ever-increasing costs of operations and maintenance. Also, they will enable us to continue updating and improving our entire service systems.

We want to stress that we will only commit to selling our **surplus** water. The needs of our customers will always come first.

We remain,
Your Board of Commissioners

District Projects Underway



The District's most recent R&R project is occurring on Pacific Highway between 112th Street and Bridgeport Way to make water main improvements before the City of Lakewood installs sidewalk improvements in preparation for Sound Transit coming to town. Our Board of Commissioners awarded the contract to NOVA Contracting out of Chehalis, Washington, submitting a low bid of \$510,000. The project will include the installation of over 5000 feet of mostly 16-inch water main, 10 water service connections, and 11 fire hydrants. Work is planned to begin in September.

Additional R&R work is planned for later this year on Veterans Drive, picking up where we left off at the intersection of Interlaaken Drive SW and Veterans Drive, proceeding west.

Work is now underway to construct the new water tower on Hemlock Hill off of 104th Street between Sharon Street and Hemlock Street. This tank will add one-half million gallons of storage capacity to the Hemlock Hill area. The tank is a hypopillar style tank, similar to the one located at 104th and Bridgeport Way. Work is scheduled to be completed by May 2006.

BEFORE THE COLD WINDS BLOW & TEMPERATURES FALL Winterize Now



With our beautiful summer weather and last year's mild winter, it's easy to forget we are not exempt from sudden and severe cold snaps that can freeze our homes' water pipes. It's always a wise precaution at the start of the fall to ready your pipes for winter weather—that way, you won't find yourself standing in a foot of water due to a broken pipe. You can rest easy knowing you're well prepared if you follow these simple precautions:

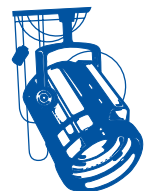
- Know where the main water shut-off valve is to your home in case of emergency.
- Disconnect garden hoses from outside faucets. Wrap or cover the faucets, and make sure any irrigation system/in-ground sprinkler is drained and winterized.
- Exposed, vulnerable pipe should be wrapped with insulation sleeves or other wrapping available at most hardware stores. Use the thickest wrap available, and close all gaps that might expose pipes to cold air.
- Seal or caulk holes and cracks in outside walls and foundations near water pipes (also holes for television cable or telephone lines). Sealing these spaces can prevent damage when freezing winds blow.
- In subfreezing temperatures, letting faucets drip slightly could prevent damage. Just opening the faucet to a slow drip can relieve excess pressure that builds between the faucet and any ice blockage that forms.

"NO PARKING" SIGNS COMING TO DISTRICT FACILITIES

The District would like to take this opportunity to inform you that it can no longer allow privately owned vehicles to park on District property *at any time*. The District's ultimate concern is the security, protection, and welfare of all its customers. Therefore, for security reasons, private vehicles cannot be left on District property. In the coming months, all District properties will be posted with **No Parking** signs. If privately owned vehicles are found on District property, they will be towed away at the owner's expense. District personnel will not attempt to locate and inform the vehicle's owner prior to towing.

In order to avoid any undue inconvenience to you, we ask that you inform your family members and friends of this matter. Given the environment and state of affairs that exist today, high priority must be given to safeguarding all of the District's properties.

Thank you very much for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Hall at 253-588-4423.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Robert Stojakovich joined the District field staff in July 2003 as a



Water Worker I. Some of his duties include installing new services, water mains, and new fire hydrants. He was also involved with the

District's touch-read and radio-read upgrade programs. Robert enjoys serving the customers of Lakewood Water District.

Robert was raised in the Tacoma area and graduated from Wilson High School. In his free time he enjoys spending time with his family and daughter. He likes playing softball, watching sports, and going to the movies.

B.J. Reygers joined the District



field staff in March 2004 as a Water Worker I. BJ has many responsibilities such as grounds maintenance, water mains, and meter repairs.

He is also involved with new service installations and assisted with the District's touch-read and radio-read upgrade programs.

B.J. was raised in the Tacoma area and graduated from Foss High School. When he is not at work, B.J. enjoys snowboarding, hiking, fishing with his dad, and hanging out with friends.

Automatic Bill Payment:

If you would like to sign up for this service, you can obtain an application at the District Office or on the District website, www.lakewood-water-dist.org.



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11900 Gravelly Lake Drive SW
P.O. Box 99729
Lakewood, WA 98499-0729
Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-5:00pm Phone:(253)588-4423
Night/Emergency Phone: (253)588-2296
www.lakewood-water-dist.org

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

President: Lawrence R Ghilarducci, Jr.
Vice President: William W. Philip
Secretary: John S. Korsmo, Jr.
General Manager: Randy Black

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

