

The Pipeline



Issue 26

Keeping Lakewood Water District Customers Informed

Fall, 2001

"SERVING THIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1943"

Commissioners' Comments

As we approach the end of the fiscal/calendar year, your Board of Commissioners is reviewing the District's finances to prepare our future budgets. With electrical power costs up over 21% and customer water usage down dramatically because of weather and aggressive conservation, we have seen a significant impact on District finances. Since your water district operates as a non-profit public corporation, we don't take in any more money than we need to fund capital replacement improvements, and ongoing operations. However, as our cost of providing those services has increased, rate increases will probably be necessary to maintain our levels of service.

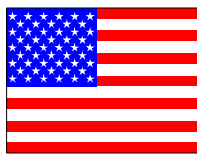
In past years, customers were surveyed after a rate increase and stated they would prefer to have rate adjustments more frequently at lower amounts, rather than higher amounts less frequently. Your Commissioners want to continue under those guidelines. As we demonstrated when we didn't impose a large rate increase after the passage of Initiative 695, we will honor our commitments to our customers so you can plan your water bills into your household budget with confidence.

Over the past year, the District's expenses from higher power costs have been greater than our revenues. This coupled

with lower interest income on District reserves over the past year, means a rate increase for next year will most likely be warranted. However, we have taken several steps to keep your water bills the lowest in the region. We've increased rental revenue by opening up more space on our water towers for cellular phone relays. We've enacted a General Facilities Charge for new connections to the system so that growth will pay for growth, rather than having our existing customers pay the costs for new additions to the system. We've instituted an auto-pay system for our customers to improve convenience while simultaneously cutting billing costs. We've restructured our capital plan to keep cost increases down.

We welcome customer input as we finalize next year's budget. Your water district is determined to continue our efforts to bring you the best customer service as efficiently as possible.

From Your Commissioners



Our condolences go out to all those who have been affected by the tragic events that occurred on September 11, 2001. You will be forever in our hearts and not forgotten.

AUTOMATIC BILL PAYMENT:

The Lakewood Water District is proud to now offer this service, which has become a very popular program. A significant number of customers have already signed up. An application has been provided for your convenience on the back of this newsletter. If you are interested, please complete the application, attach a voided check and mail or drop off the application at the District office. It is a fast and convenient way to pay your water bill.

GENERAL FACILITIES CHARGE:

The Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution pertaining to the General Facilities Charge that will become effective December 3, 2001. New residential water hookups for a 5/8" meter are \$789.00 for the connection charge. The general facilities charge for a 5/8" meter will be an additional \$1,170.00. Charges for larger meters are based on water capacity provided and are part of the approved resolution. The one-time fee will affect only new metered services and meter upgrades. If you would like additional information or have questions, please contact our office at 253-588-4423.

Published by Lakewood Water District

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

President: Larry Ghilarducci

Vice President: William Philip

Secretary: Mark Hullinger

Manager: Randy Black

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

Public Welcome





COMMISSIONERS:

L. R. Ghilarducci, Jr.

W.W. Philip

M. M. Hullinger

MANAGER:

Randall M. Black

AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL AUTHORIZATION FORM

(Please type or print clearly)

A. Customer Information

Customer Name

Customer Number

Address

Phone Number

City, State, Zip

B. Banking/Financial Institution Information

Name of Bank/Financial Institution

Phone Number of Institution

Address

Account Number

City, State, Zip

Bank ABA/Routing Number

Check One: Checking Savings

C. Authorization Statement

I authorize and request the Lakewood Water District to instruct my financial institution to make my payments. I also understand I may discontinue at any time by giving written notice to Lakewood Water District. I realize this information will be used solely for the purpose of consumer withdrawal. Lakewood Water District also reserves the right to refuse applications for automatic withdrawal for any reason. Written explanation by the District will be sent should the District deny any request for automatic withdrawal.

Customer Signature

Date

PLEASE ATTACH A VOIDED CHECK

Billing Department:

History: _____

Entered: _____

Mail: _____