

STRAIGHT FROM THE TAP

Letter to our Valued Customers

Thank you for your patience as we continue to assess the impacts of the June 2023 Boil Water Advisory. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you. We have some preliminary updates regarding our future operations.

After the June 17th retest confirming the presence of coliform and subsequent introduction of chlorinated water, we have not had another positive test for any bacteria. The lab confirmed clean test samples from June 20, 21, and 22 during the Boil Water Advisory. The District continues to perform 6 routine tests a week.

The Department of Health (DOH) is requiring that the District become a chlorinated water system. Chlorine is considered a sanitizing agent that will reduce chance of bacteria living in our water system. We are currently researching the following options. **No final decisions have been made on any of these choices, and more options may be considered after**

consultation with our engineering firm.

***Use our own production facilities (wells) and chlorinate our own water. We currently have chlorination facilities but require additional equipment be built for filtering the water. This will require investment in infrastructure to meet new requirements to reduce the naturally occurring mineral Manganese.

***Continue to purchase chlorinated water from High-line Water District. Purchasing water from another source rather than producing our own water will leave us in less control of our water rates passed on to you as our customer.

As we mentioned, no decisions have been made as we are researching all choices to see which is the best way for the District to move ahead. As always, our most important goal is to serve you the best water possible.

If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Alert King County (formerly CodeRED)

It is very important to sign up for the **Alert King County** program if you wish to be included in the robo-call system in case of any sort of an emergency. This is a volunteer program so it is up to you to make sure your information is included.

Scan the **Alert King County** (formerly CodeRED) QR Code on the enclosed flyer, or go online to <http://qrco.de/beBueJ> and enter your contact information.

There is no charge for this service. If you do not have a computer with internet service, we are including a sign-up sheet in this newsletter, please fill it out and return it to our office. We will also have forms available at the District office. Our office manager will input the information for you. The District office has a drop box in the door so you can return your form at your convenience.

The Temperature and Pressure Relief (T&P) Valve and Expansion Tank

Do you know where your T & P valve and expansion tank are located. They are typically located near the top of your water heater. They are very important features of your plumbing system's hot water supply. Installation of a T & P valve has been a requirement in plumbing codes for many years. A properly functioning T & P valve is designed to relieve excess pressure. If the valve doesn't operate properly, the water heater could fail catastrophically, resulting in property dam-

age and possible injury to building occupants.

Expansion tanks have been a relatively recent requirement for water heater installations. This device accommodates a minimal expansion of water when it is heated and precludes the T & P valve from activating. This is particularly important if the outlet of the T & P valve is piped to a location that would cause damage from the discharged water.

Water Use Efficiency

Water use efficiency is the smart use of our water resources through water-saving technologies and simple steps we can all take around the house. Using water efficiently will help ensure reliable water supplies today and for future generations. Best of all, everyone can play their part in preserving our nation's water resources. With the simple steps and informational tools below, you'll find it's easier than ever.

Maybe you've purchased some WaterSense labeled products. There are lots of things you can do in your own home to reduce water use and get more for less. Just follow our simple tips below to get started.

In the bathroom – where over half of all water use inside a home takes place:

- ◇ Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth.
- ◇ Showers use less water than baths, as long as you keep an eye on how long you've been lathering up.

In the kitchen:

- ◇ Plug up the sink or use a wash basin if washing dishes by hand.
- ◇ Use a dishwasher- and when you do, make sure it's fully loaded.
- ◇ Scrape your plate instead of rinsing it before loading it into the dishwasher.
- ◇ Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run.
- ◇ Add food waste to your compost pile instead of using your garbage disposal.

In the laundry room:

- ◇ Wash only full loads of laundry or use the appropriate water level or load size.
- ◇ To save money on your energy bills, set your washing

machine to use cold water rather than hot or warm water.

Save outdoors:

Of the estimated 29 billion gallons of water used daily by households in the U.S. nearly 9 billion gallons, or 30 percent, is devoted to outdoor water use. In the hot summer months, or in dry climates, a household's outdoor water use can be as high as 70 percent.

In the yard—be beautiful and efficient:

- ◇ Create a water-smart landscape. Check EPA's web site to learn more. You can create both a beautiful and efficient landscape to give your home the curb appeal you desire.
- ◇ Timing is everything! Knowing when and how much to water.
- ◇ Upgrade to a water sense labeled controller if you have a sprinkler system or in-ground irrigation system.
- ◇ Find a certified irrigation professionals to install, maintain, or audit your irrigation system to ensure it is watering at peak efficiency.

Other outdoor ways to save:

- ◇ Sweep driveways, sidewalks, and steps rather than hosing them off.
- ◇ When washing your car consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water.

Take action during the hot summer months when water use increases to curb water waste.

If a drought is declared in your area, go the extra mile to save water.

Well 7 Rehabilitation

Currently the District is in the process of rehabilitating Well 7. Well 7 was installed in 2001 and has been experiencing diminished production. A well driller will pull the piping from the well and send a camera down the well to inspect the screen where the water enters the well. Often the driller

will surge the well similar to using a toilet plunger to unplug stuck debris attached to the screen while forcing the fine particles away from the screen. After Well 7 is rehabilitated the District will rehabilitate Well 6 using the same method. Well 6 was put into service in 1991.

KING COUNTY WATER DISTRICT NO. 54

922 South 219th Street
Des Moines, WA 98198

Phone: 206-878-7210
Fax: 206-824-1909
Website: www.kcwd54.org

Presorted Standard
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Permit No. 4136

Water District 54 Hours

Office: M-F 7:30 a.m. to
4 p.m.

Answering Service: Avail-
able 24 hours a day, 7 day
a week.

Board of Commissioner
Meetings held 1st and 3rd
Tuesdays at 4:00 pm at
the District offices.



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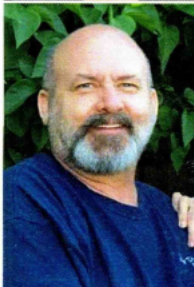
Changing of the Guard



Outgoing Commissioner, Yoshiko Grace Matsui, will be leaving the Water District at the end of 2023. She is moving on to take on the challenge of being a City of Des Moines City Council member. Although we will miss her greatly here at the District, we know she will do an outstanding job in her new upcoming endeavors. Best Wishes Yoshiko!



Incoming Commissioner, Catherine Barashkoff, will be joining the District January 1, 2024. Catherine has lived in Des Moines since 2002. Catherine has been attending the District meetings for most of this year so she will be joining us already well versed in the goings on here at the District. Welcome Catherine!



District Manager, Eric Clarke, has been with the Water District for 22 years. He will be retiring at the end of this year. We at the District will miss him greatly. We would like to thank him for his dedication to this District over the last 22 years. We all wish him the best of luck in his well deserved retirement! Best of Luck Eric!

Final year of the 5-year Rate increase

As you may remember, in 2020 we implemented a 5-year rate increase. 2024 is the last year of that plan. This plan was implemented before Covid and the particularly high inflation that has hit us for the last few years. The rate increase next to this column will take affect January 1, 2024. However, due to the current inflation rate and the potential of a new treatment facility being built we are anticipating an additional rate increase mid-year in 2024. We are hoping to put at least a 3-year plan together so that we can keep you informed as to the needs of the District. We are currently waiting on building and maintenance costs from our engineer to determine what infrastructure improvements the District needs to make so we can determine which direction will best serve our customers. This information will determine what the new rate structure will be. We are hoping to have more information to provide to you by the first quarter of 2024.

Service Type	Criteria	Rate/Month	Increase for 2024
Residential	3/4" & less	\$17.40	\$1.00
	1"	\$18.40	\$1.00
Multi Fam	Each unit same as Res	\$17.40	\$1.00
Non Res	3/4" & less	\$46.30	\$2.78
	1"	\$48.91	\$3.33
	1 1/2"	\$78.55	\$4.71
	2"	\$138.44	\$8.31

Time of Year	Months	Current Rate/100 cf	New Rate for 2024
Winter	11/1 to 4/30	\$3.95	No change
Summer	5/1 to 10/31	\$4.55	No change

District Boundaries

The District was formed in 1935 by a vote of the people. The District boundaries are from approximately South 216th Street on the North to South 230th Street and Kent-Des Moines Road (SR516) on the South and from approximately 13th Avenue South on the East to the Water front and the Marina on the West. The District is approximately 1 mile long by 1/2 mile wide. We are surrounded by Highline Water District on the North, South and East, with Puget sound on the West

Water Meters & Readings

Water meters accurately measure all water flows-including leaky faucets and toilets. The water meters have a dial that spins proportionally to the flow on your property. All water meters are calibrated and certified in accordance with industry standards to ensure accuracy.

Water meters for KCWD54 measure in centum cubic feet (CCF). 1 CF= 1 cubic foot or 7.48 gallons of water. 1 CCF= 100 centum cubic feet or 748 Gallons of water.

Water meters are typically located in concrete boxes with metal lids in the ground, and are located in parking strips, gardens or in the sidewalk in front or the side of your house. If you cannot locate your water meter please call the office (206) 878-7210.

Chlorine Taste

Since the Boil Water Advisory that occurred back in June, this District has been purchasing water from the neighboring district, Highline Water District. Highline treats the water with chlorine and fluoride. For those of you that are accustomed to our unchlorinated water, this may take some getting used to. To diminish the chlorine taste there are a number of things you can do. You can stir a pitcher of water with a wooden spoon or squeeze a drop of lemon into the water. This will dissipate the chlorine.

To get even better taste purchase a Brita filter. These can be purchased as a pitcher that has the filter on top when you fill it, this way you are not wasting the filter on hand washing and all the other things that you use water for.

11th Avenue Main Replacement

King County Water District #54 is in the process of designing a replacement water main on 11th Ave. So.

The new main will run south on 11th Ave. from 220th Street to 224th street, and on 224th Street between 11th Ave and 12th Ave. The new main will be an 8" ductile iron pipe and will replace a 6 " steel pipe.

Construction time has yet to be determined.



WHAT IS ALERT KING COUNTY?

1

The City uses **Alert King County** as an emergency alert system, to call, email and text residents to alert them of emergency situations.

WHY SHOULD I SIGN UP?

2

Alert King County is used by the City and County. **Alert King County** helps you stay informed about potential hazards and threats that impact your area.

HOW DO YOU SIGN UP?

3

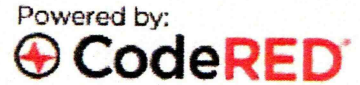
Scan the QR Code above, search **Alert King County** on any web browser! **SIGN UP TODAY!**

You have a role to play in Emergency Preparedness. Planning ahead increases your ability to survive and thrive in the face of disaster. For additional tips on Emergency Preparedness visit www.MakeItThrough.org.





Stay informed!



Alert King County

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY

NAME: _____

LOCATION TYPE: _____ HOME _____ BUSINESS _____ MULTI-FAMILY

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBERS YOU WANT ASSOCIATED WITH THIS ADDRESS:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

CELL PHONE PROVIDER (T-MOBILE, VERIZON ETC.): _____

WOULD YOU LIKE AN EMAIL CONTACT ALSO?:

1. _____

2. _____

I AUTHORIZE PERSONNEL OF KING COUNTY WATER DISTRICT 54 TO SUBMIT THIS INFORMATION ELECTRONICALLY

X _____

(PRINT NAME)

Please return this to the District office at 922 S. 219TH St. or go online to sign up at <http://qrco.de/beBueJ>