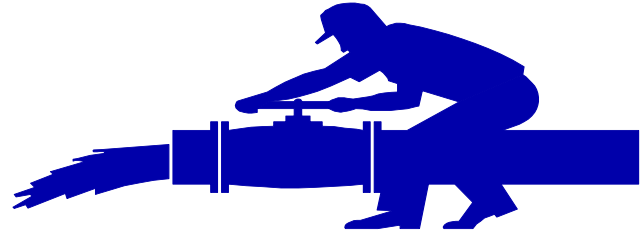


# CEDAR RIVER WATER & SEWER DISTRICT



## WINTER REVIEW

DECEMBER 2011

### RATE INCREASE

At the November 1, 2011 Board of Commissioners meeting, the Board discussed several options regarding rate increases and rate structures. The final decision by the Board was to not increase the Water Base Charges, but to instead reduce the amount of water that is included in the Base rate. Currently customers receive 2.5 ccf per month in the base rate, that will be reduced to 1.5 ccf per month. In addition there will be a 2% increase to the Water Use Charge and a 5% rate increase to the CRWSD portion of the sewer charge. The rate increases are being driven by several factors including the significant decline in water sales, increasing supply costs to the District, and increasing operating costs. The new water and sewer rates, as outlined below, will take effect on all billings generated on or after January 1, 2012. A complete copy of the District's Rate & Fee Schedule is available upon request. Please contact the District if you would like a copy.

### MONTHLY SERVICE & USAGE CHARGES

(Customers are billed every 2 months)

Water Base Charges *	2011	2012
3/4 "	\$18.99	\$18.99
1"	\$23.20	\$23.20
1 1/2"	\$40.28	\$40.28
2"	\$64.01	\$64.01
3"	\$107.58	\$107.58
4"	\$170.86	\$170.86
Multi-Family (Per Unit)	\$14.62	\$14.62

\*Base fee includes 150 cubic feet of water

Water Use Charges (per 100 cf)	2011	2012
Tier 1 150-500 cubic feet	\$2.34	\$2.39
Tier 2 500 -1500 cubic feet	\$4.12	\$4.20
Tier 3 1500 - 2500 cubic feet	\$4.45	\$4.54
Tier 4 Over 2500 cubic feet*	\$7.23	\$7.38

\*Tier 4 applies to Residential and irrigation only

Sewer Base Charge	2011	2012
Cedar River Sewer Charge	\$18.64	\$19.57
King County Wastewater Treatment	\$36.10	\$36.10
Overage per 100 cf over 750 cf	\$7.30	\$7.42

\*(Overage applies only to commercial and apartments/condos)

### On-line Banking Payments Now Electronic

Cedar River has recently made improvements to how we receive payments from most of our on-line banking customers. The District has arranged to receive payments electronically from 3 of the largest on-line bill payment processors. Depending on your bank or credit union, it will either be the next day or up to 3 days after you initiate the payment. Check with your bank for their guaranteed delivery date. Your on-line electronic payment will be posted to your account the same day it is received by the District.

In order to set up on-line banking you will need to set it up with your own bank or credit union. When making an on-line banking payment, it is important to include your 6 digit customer account number. Do not put any dashes or other characters and include any leading zeros.

We continue to research and improve ways for District customers to make payments. We are currently researching options for making debit and credit card payments on-line.

### Options For Paying Your Bill:

- On-Line Bank Payments initiated through your bank.
- Cash, Check, or Money Order accepted during regular business hours 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM at the District Office located at 18421 SE Petrovitsky Rd.
- After hour payments can be put in our drop box (No cash payments) at the entrance to the District Office. Payments are picked up each morning before 7:00 AM.
- Mail payments to - Cedar River Water & Sewer District - P. O. Box 1040, Maple Valley, WA 98038.
- Automatic Bank Draft Payments – On the due date, the District will initiate payment from your bank account for the amount of your bill. Forms are available on our website, [www.crwsd.com](http://www.crwsd.com) or on page 3 of this newsletter.

## Don't Freeze Up

Winter weather is here. Prevent the expense and inconvenience of frozen pipes by taking a few simple steps now.



1. **Insulate Exposed Pipes and Faucets.** Outdoor faucets and pipes in unheated garages and crawl spaces are most vulnerable in freezing weather. To prevent these pipes from freezing, wrap them with newspaper, rags, or other insulating material. Cover them with plastic and secure with string or wire. Pipes that have frozen in the past, despite precautionary measures, can be wrapped with electric heat tape. Or, if you don't mind the additional cost on your utility bills, you can let one indoor faucet slowly drip warm water overnight during spells of below freezing temperatures. Do not, however, leave water running in a house that will be vacant for an extended period of time.
2. **Locate Your Main Shut-Off Valve.** Don't wait for an emergency. Find your main shut-off valve now and test it! If a pipe breaks, you can stop excessive water loss and water damage by turning off your main shut-off valve. It is commonly located in the basement, the garage, or outdoors by the foundation, often near the front faucet. Test the valve by turning the handle to be sure it is working properly and identify it with a tag. Many of the homes in Fairwood have a buried shut-off valve just below the front hose bib. Because these valves have been in the ground for many years and are subject to corrosion, it is recommended that they not be used. In the event that the water needs to be turned off, use the valve at the meter. Accessibility to the meter is important for the home owner and the District. **A three foot radius around the meter box should be clear of plants, trees, shrubs, etc.** There is a shut-off valve in the meter box. If you attempt to turn it off, please do so with extreme caution. Turn firmly, but gently clockwise with a turn off wrench. Call the District if you need help.
3. **Never leave a garden hose attached to the faucet in freezing weather.**

4. **Winterize Your Vacant House.** If you leave your house for several days, take the following steps to protect pipes from freezing:
  - a. Turn off main shut-off valve.
  - b. Turn off the electricity or gas to the water heater. If the house is going to be vacant for an extended length of time the water heater should also be drained.
  - c. Open indoor and outdoor faucets to drain pipes.
  - d. Flush toilet once to drain the tank but not the bowl.
  - e. Leave your heat on at a minimum temperature setting to help keep pipes from freezing in the interior walls.
5. **Winterize your Sprinkler system.** Make sure your shut off valve is off and the irrigation lines are drained to prevent freezing and cracking in the system.
6. **Protect your Pets.** Outside pets need special attention during winter. Ensure they have a dry shelter out of the cold and check to see that drinking water is not frozen.

## Emergency Measures

- A. **Thawing Frozen Pipes.** Frozen pipes may be thawed by wrapping them with rags and repeatedly pouring hot water over the rags. Once the pipes are thawed, remove the rags and rewrap pipes with dry insulation material to prevent re-freezing. If this method is not successful, call a plumber. **NEVER USE AN OPEN FLAME OR ELECTRICAL DEVICE TO THAW FROZEN PIPES.** Using these methods can cause fire or electric shock.
- B. **What To Do If A Water Pipe Breaks.** If a water pipe on your side of the meter breaks, turn off the main shut-off valve to control flooding and water damage. Then immediately contact a plumber to repair the leak.
- C. **Water Utility Emergency Service.** The District maintains the supply system from the source to the meter. You are responsible for protecting water pipes from freezing and repairing broken pipes on your property.

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

SE 224TH STREET WATER MAIN EXTENSION — this project is in the planning stage. It involves adding approximately 3600 feet of 8" and 12" water main that will provide service to new customers and added capacity for the Tahoma National Cemetery.

FAIRWOOD SEWER REHABILITATION Phase 1 — this project is currently under way and should be completed this winter. It involves replacing approximately 3200 feet of sewer main in the Fairwood Community. The project is using pipe bursting technology, minimizing open trenching and limiting negative impacts on the residents and businesses in the area.

FAIRWOOD SEWER REHABILITATION Phase 2 — this project is in the design stage. It is a diverse project that will replace approximately 1500 feet of sewer main in a variety of areas in the Fairwood Community. It will employ pipe bursting, cured in place piping, directional boring and open trench technologies to creatively adapt to a number of community needs.

STREET OVERLAY— In areas of the sewer rehabilitation referenced above, the District plans to pave a number of roadways in the Fairwood area improving roadway conditions and protecting newly installed infrastructure. This project is scheduled for fall 2012.

TELEMETRY— Phase 1 completed in 2011 and Phase 2 planned for 2012. The project involves upgrading antiquated communication technology between District's Infrastructure. The new equipment will improve speed and accuracy in communicating between the local office work station and the remote facilities throughout the District service area.

Direct Payment Withdraw

Cedar River Water & Sewer District offers direct payment withdrawal – payments may be electronically transferred from your account directly to the District. All customers interested in this option should complete the attached form and return it, along with a blank voided check, to the District. If you have any further questions regarding this feature, please contact the District office.

I hereby authorize Cedar River Water & Sewer District to withdraw automatically from my account (listed below & blank voided imprinted check provided) all amounts charged to me by Cedar River Water & Sewer District.

Name (s) on Account: \_\_\_\_\_ CRWSD Acct #: \_\_\_\_\_
As they appear on the bank account

Bank Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Checking [ ] Bank Transit ABA #: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

or Savings [ ] Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

This authority is to remain in effect until I express otherwise in writing. I understand that thirty (30) days written notice to Cedar River Water & Sewer District is required to establish, change, or cancel this service.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

2012 DISTRICT OBSERVED HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Jan 2 – New Years Day  
Jan 16 – M.L. King Birthday  
Feb 20 – Presidents Day

May 28 – Memorial Day  
July 4 - Independence Day  
Sep 3 – Labor Day

Nov 22,23 – Thanksgiving  
Dec 24,25 – Christmas

Service Line Replacement & Installation suggestions

Water service lines develop leaks and can fail over time. Some of the older residences will find they have problems. Here are a few suggestions when replacing your service line:

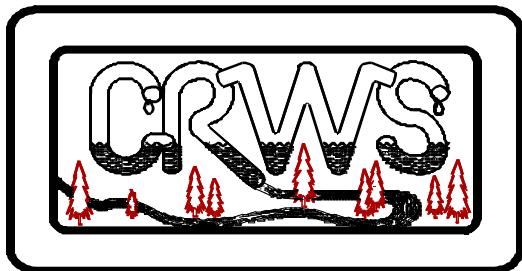
- 1. The type of service line should be polyethylene SDR7 1" iron pipe size with a rating of 200 PSI or better labeled on the pipe.
2. Service line should be buried at a minimum depth of 24" and should be bedded in sand, over and under.
3. The District requires the connection to the meter setter be made either by District personnel or a licensed plumber. In the event you choose to have your plumber make the connection, the connection must remain exposed until inspected by District personnel.
4. The District requires 24 hour notice to make the connection of the service line to the meter setter.
5. When replacing your service line, It is a good idea to install a new shut off valve to your house.
6. Although meters can be turned on and off with a crescent wrench, a meter shut off key makes the task easier and can be purchased at a local hardware store.
7. If you dig, call for a locate first. Underground Utility Locate Services at 811 provides this service at no charge.
8. Make sure you or your plumber never use galvanized, plastic or nylon fittings. All brass fittings compatible with the meter yoke and stainless steel clamps are required.

AT YOUR SERVICE



Fire - Medical - Police
911
Poison Center
206-526-2121

Table listing service providers and their contact numbers: Cedar River Water & Sewer (425-255-6370), Soos Creek Water & Sewer (253-630-9900), Covington Water District (253-631-0565), Metro (Hazardous Waste) (206-684-1233), Puget Sound Energy (Street Lights) (1-888-225-5773), Puget Sound Energy (Gas & Electricity) (1-800-321-4123), Comcast Cable (1-888-266-2278), Allied Waste (206-682-9735), Waste Management (1-800-592-9995), Rainier Disposal (Fairwood) (206-243-4050), Qwest (1-800-244-1111).



Cedar River Water & Sewer
18421 S.E. Petrovitsky Road
Renton, WA 98058

Board of Commissioners:
Walter M. Canter
Wes Jorgenson
Charles E. Terwillegar

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