

Around the Lake

Water and Sewer-Related News and Information

Readying the District's Original Headquarters Site for its Next Life



*by Commissioner
Shauna Willner*

Silver Lake Water and Sewer District has seen tremendous growth and

change over our 91 year history—from the number of people we serve, and where we serve, to the buildings that have supported our operations.

Our District was originally founded in 1934 to provide water service to a small residential population surrounding Silver Lake, including areas West of I-5. In the late 1960s, a new sewer district was formed to serve the same area. It wasn't long before both districts—Fir Crest Sewer District and Silver Lake Water District—began experiencing significant growth and development.

To meet the needs of this growing population, we built a new 1.5 Million Gallon (MG) water reservoir located on 132nd Street SE in Mill Creek in 1965, followed by a new District Headquarters building on the same site just six years later.

To maximize efficiencies in the 1980s, we merged with the sewer district and became known as Silver Lake Water and Sewer District.



The combined Silver Lake Water and Sewer District continued to grow with our region's ever-expanding population, especially in the South and East portions of our service area, despite losing some portions on the North and West boundaries due to City of Everett annexations.

By the early 2000s, we'd outgrown both the 1.5 MG reservoir and our original headquarters building, and began construction on a new headquarters building—the same one that's in use today on 41st Avenue SE in Bothell—along with a new 8 MG reservoir. Outside of COVID, when it provided space for employee social distancing, the old headquarters building remained vacant. We completed a boundary line adjustment in 2022 to ready the lot for a potential future sale.

In January 2024, Mother Nature provided the final motivation. A prolonged period of freezing weather caused a water pipe to burst in the old headquarters, resulting in significant flooding damage.

Staff cleaned things up as much as possible, we filed an insurance claim, and used those proceeds to hire a consultant to plan and prepare a bid package for a contractor to demolish the old building.

Northend Excavating out of Granite Falls was the successful bidder (in the amount of \$89,453), and began demolition in March of this year, after a brief delay to relocate an existing natural gas line. Shortly after, we installed new boundary fencing to complete the demolition project.

Autopay – Easy and Convenient

In today's fast-paced world, it's easy to overlook important tasks, like paying your utility bill. That's why Silver Lake Water and Sewer District offers two convenient autopay options to ensure you never miss a payment, no matter how busy life gets. The first option is a no-cost service through the District, allowing payments directly from your checking or savings account (property owners only). The second option is a fee-based service via our payment vendor, Invoice Cloud.

By enrolling in autopay, you can rest easy knowing your payment will be handled automatically. With the no-cost option, we withdraw your payment on the 15th of the month it's due from your designated checking or savings account (please note, no credit card payments). If you're out of town or busy, you won't need to worry about making your payment on time.

To enroll in the no-cost autopay option, visit our website at <https://forms.slwsd.com/Forms/FinAuthforAutoPay>. If you have questions, call us at 425-337-3647, and one of our friendly Utility Clerks will be happy to assist you.

If you prefer to use a credit card, or are renting, our second option through Invoice Cloud allows for credit card auto-payments. Please note that a \$4.25 transaction fee applies. With this option, your payment will be deducted on the due date each cycle. Alternatively, you can set up a "recurring" payment to choose a different date each month that works better for you. To explore these options, visit <https://www.slwsd.com/billing> and scroll down to the "Pay Now Online" section.

Regardless of which option you choose, autopay is an easy and convenient way to ensure your utility payments are always made on time. It's one less thing to worry about!

Latest Updates on Your Infrastructure



Pioneer Trails Lift Station Replacement

The scope of the Pioneer Trails project consists of replacing the existing lift station with three submersible pumps, a new backup generator, valve and meter vaults, and an electrical control building. The existing 35-foot deep wet well will be converted to overflow storage. The contractor is Faber Construction out of Lynden, Washington, and the project construction cost is \$3.875 million.

After a delay waiting for critical electronic components, site work began again in November 2024. The new station was started up and switched over at the end of March, followed by demolition and removal of the old station. Final project completion, restoration, and landscaping should be completed by early summer.



Lowell Larimer 1 Lift Station Replacement

The construction contract for the Lowell Larimer 1 project was awarded in October 2024 to McClure & Sons, Inc. of Mill Creek, in the amount of \$4.175 million. The scope of work includes new concrete retaining walls to expand the station footprint, replacing the existing station with submersible pumps, a new valve vault, backup generator, and electrical control building. The existing wet well will be converted to overflow storage. Work began in April, and will take approximately one year to complete.



Highlands East Lift Station Rehabilitation

The construction contract for the Highlands East project was awarded in January 2025, to Faber Construction in the amount of \$2.8 million. The project work includes replacing the old, high maintenance surface mounted pumps with new submersibles in the existing wet well, a new valve vault, generator and an electrical control building, with site improvements such as new fencing. Due to a delay in waiting for critical electronic components, site work will not begin until January 2026.

2025 Water and Sewer Rate Adjustment

Effective May 1, 2025, water and sewer rates will increase due to the increase in our wholesale purchase rates. The base residential water rate will increase from \$16.25 per month to \$18.69, and the 100 cubic feet charge (1 CCF) will increase from \$4.00 to \$4.60. The sewer rate change in the Everett basin will increase from \$79.40 to \$84.16, and in the Alderwood basin from \$78.20 to \$82.89. The following charts illustrate these increases for Single-Family Residence (SFR) rates using 5 CCFs per month:

Everett Basin SFR Bill	Old Rate May 1, 2024	New Rate May 1, 2025
Water Base	16.25	18.69
CCF Fee	20.00	23.00
Sewer	79.40	84.16
Subtotal Monthly:	\$115.65	\$125.85
Bi-Monthly Bill:	\$231.30	\$251.70

AWWD Basin SFR Bill	Old Rate May 1, 2024	New Rate May 1, 2025
Water Base	16.25	18.69
CCF Fee	20.00	23.00
Sewer	78.20	82.89
Subtotal Monthly:	\$114.45	\$124.58
Bi-Monthly Bill:	\$228.90	\$249.16

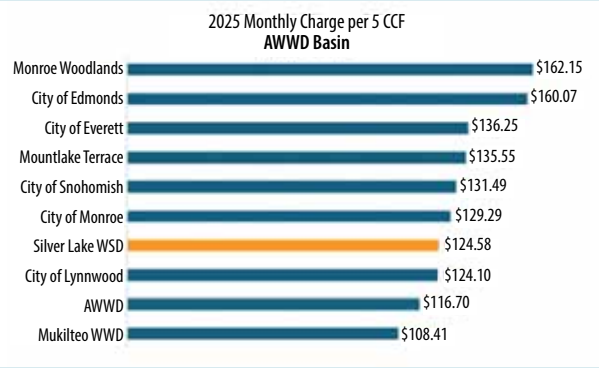
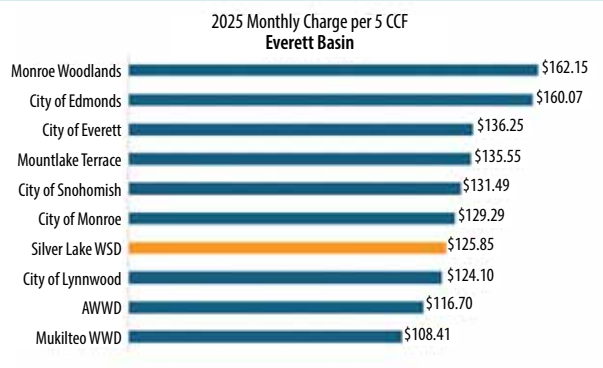
The Silver Lake Water and Sewer District is committed to providing safe and reliable water and sewer services to our customers that meet and/or exceed all federal and state requirements. In addition to funding our operational and capital needs to achieve our commitment to you, the rates you pay also cover the cost of the District’s purchases of wholesale water and wholesale sewer services.

The District purchases its water wholesale from three sources: primarily Clearview Water Supply Agency (CWSA), some from the Alderwood Water/Wastewater District (AWWD), and some purchased directly from the City of Everett (which supplies water to both CWSA and AWWD). The District received notice that its wholesale water supply rates may increase up to 125% over what we have paid since 2023 (there was no increase to the water wholesale rate in 2024). After discussion at the April 10, 2025 Board meeting and the public hearing at the April 24, 2025 Board meeting, the District’s Board has chosen to mitigate this increase to our customers by limiting our water rate increase to 15%.

Along with water, the District purchases sewer treatment services at a wholesale rate from both the City of Everett (Everett basin) and the Alderwood Water/Wastewater District (the Alderwood or AWWD basin). The District received notice that our wholesale sewer rates for AWWD would be increasing by 6% and received notice our wholesale sewer rates for Everett would be increasing 12.8%. Again, the Board chose to mitigate these increases for our customers by limiting our sewer rate increase to 6% for this year.

While the District has no control over the outside agencies from which we purchase our wholesale services, the District does have control over its operations and its capital improvement programs. By being as efficient (and lean) as possible with our staffing and operational costs, and by being strategic in when we schedule capital projects and how we pay for capital projects, we were able to mitigate the rate increases imposed by these outside agencies for 2025. Our mitigation efforts will not jeopardize our capital program, nor jeopardize our reserves which are used to ensure cash flow for paying our expenses, and for appropriate cash in the near future for our necessary capital expenses.

The District acknowledges that rate increases of any amount, while necessary to maintain the health, safety, and efficiency of our water and sewer systems, can be challenging in these current economic times. If you are experiencing challenges paying your utility bill, please don’t hesitate to visit our website at www.slwsd.com for a list of customer assistance programs/agencies that may be able to help you.



As illustrated in the charts at left, our May 1, 2025 rates continue to remain in the lower half of rates charged by other jurisdictions in our areas (Silver Lake shown in orange)



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

If you're planning to build a new deck or fence, plant trees and shrubs, install drainage, or dig around / remove an old tree stump, Washington State **requires you to call 811**—the **FREE** Call Before You Dig Hotline—**at least two days before** excavation takes place.

Silver Lake Water & Sewer District

Address

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Bothell, WA 98012-6114

Phone

Fax

(425) 337-3647 (425) 337-4399

Email

service@slwsd.com

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Closed Saturday, Sunday, and major holidays.

Public Meetings

Our Board of Commissioners meet in-person, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The public may attend and comment in person or via teleconference. The conference telephone number and access code are published on our website. There is an opportunity for public comment at the beginning of the agenda. If you wish to speak at a meeting, please contact us in advance at (425) 337-3647 (Ext. 212) so we can call upon you at the appropriate time.

How to Pay Your Bill

Types of Payments Accepted

Check, money order, and credit card
(Visa, MasterCard, American Express)

Pay By DropBox

A payment drop box—for checks and money orders only—is available in the parking lot of our office at 15205 - 41st Avenue SE in Bothell.

Pay Online

www.slwsd.com

Pay By Phone

1-(844) 956-1375

Pay With Your Own Bank Bill Pay System

Please allow 7 business days for delivery

Pay In Person

15205 - 41st Avenue SE
Bothell, WA 98012-6114

Transaction Fees

Pay online with credit/debit \$4.25

Pay online with ACH/EFT \$2.85

Pay by phone with credit/debit card: \$5.00

Pay by phone with EFT: \$3.60

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Call 811 Before You Dig 4

In Case of Emergency

District staff are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to assist you with water and sewer emergencies.

(425) 337-3647

If you are calling after hours, press "1" to hold for an Emergency Operator.