

Commissioners' Corner



Jeremy DelMar

Greetings fellow customers,

My name is Jeremy DelMar and I am the newest member of the Lakehaven Board of Commissioners. As this is my first Commissioner's Corner, I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce myself and share my story of why I wanted to serve as your Commissioner.

First, I would like to acknowledge and thank retired Commissioner Ronald Nowicki for his many years of service to the customers of Lakehaven. Ron brought a wealth of knowledge and experience in his 16 years as Commissioner. As I am replacing his position, I hope to carry on his legacy. Ron, enjoy your retirement in the warm weather of Arizona!

My journey into water resources started twenty-five years ago. I lost my job as a construction laborer due to a downturned economy and without any prospects for other work, made the personal decision to return to school. It was a stressful time starting over, but I had faith that doors would open, I would find my purpose, and discover a career that would always be in demand.

I found that purpose in a water resource engineering class at college. I quickly became fascinated with hydrology, hydraulics, and the complexity of managing the water needs of society. Over the next two decades, I earned degrees in civil engineering and public administration, became a licensed professional engineer, and worked as an engineering consultant managing critical water infrastructure projects. Today, I am employed in senior management at a regional water utility overseeing the engineering and operations of the agency's infrastructure. I also concentrate on asset management, strategic planning, and policy development.

I chose to pursue this Commissioner opportunity as another way to serve and support our local community. I believe public service helps make our society a better place for future generations. I am passionate about all things water and believe leveraging my experience to help our utility is the most effective way I can serve.

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Lakehaven Links

Our Mission

The Lakehaven Water and Sewer District is committed to the continued delivery of safe, reliable and high quality drinking water and environmentally responsible sewer service to our customers.

Board of Commissioners

Len Englund, President
Don Miller, Vice-President
Laura Belvin, Secretary
Peter Sanchez, Commissioner
Jeremy DelMar, Commissioner

Regular Board of Commissioners meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. Please check the website for meeting information.

Contact Us

Federal Way: 253-941-1516
Tacoma: 253-927-2922
After Hours Emergencies:
253-941-1516

Business Hours:
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

www.lakehaven.org

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It's an exciting time at Lakehaven. The District is constructing a new District Headquarters and will be investing to modernize our treatment plants and collection systems. I look forward to working with my fellow Commissioners and the employees of Lakehaven to ensure you continue to receive reliable utility services. And for those looking for a rewarding career, I highly recommend you consider the many diverse opportunities available for employment at your local utility.

Groundbreaking Ceremony

The District marked the commencement of construction on the new Headquarters Building with a Groundbreaking Ceremony. The event, held on November 3rd, was attended by District Board members and staff, representatives of state and local government, and other interested persons who gathered outside of the fencing installed for the on-going site work. Commissioner Peter Sanchez and General Manager John Bowman provided the audience with descriptions of the project and information about the new building, which is scheduled for completion in the early part of 2023.

Board Adopts 2022 Water and Sewer Rates and Charges

The Board of Commissioners adopted rates and charges for 2022 (and beyond) at the December 9th regular Board meeting. Adoption of the rates followed review of a rate study provided by FCS Group, the District's rate consultant, and a public hearing held during the Board's October 28th meeting. Under the new rates, the cost for water for the average single-family residential customer (approx. 5200 gallons per month) inside the City of Federal Way will increase from \$25.69 per month in 2021 to \$26.73 per month in 2022. Water rates for customers outside of the City of Federal Way will increase from \$25.22 to \$26.43. Note that, even with the application of the City's 7.75% excise tax on water system revenues, water rates are only slightly higher in Federal Way due to the fact that the City pays for the cost of fire suppression capacity in the water system. Similar water rates increases are planned for the next several years.

Sewer rates for the average single-family residential customer inside the City of Federal Way will increase from \$42.01 per month to \$46.39 per month. Outside the City, the rates will increase from \$38.87 per month to \$42.98 per month. Rates inside the Federal Way are higher due to the excise tax applied to sewer revenues. The small number of customers with wastewater flows treated by King County or Pierce County will have slightly higher rates due to the higher cost of treatment. As with water, similar rate increases are planned for the next several years.

The Board also updated the District's Capital Facilities Charge for the water and sewer system. These charges, which allocate to each property a pro rata share of all shared system costs, are collected when new properties connect to the water and/or sewer system. With the update, the cost of connecting one single family residence to the water system will increase from \$4,422 to \$4,731. The cost of connecting to the sewer system will rise from \$4,283 to \$4,677.

Rates for multi-family and commercial customers will see similar increases under the new rate model. At the present time, the Board has determined to wait until more is known about the cost of the King County Rental Charge to establish a charge to customers in the unincorporated areas of King County.

Despite these increases, the costs for water and sewer service provided by the District remain near the lowest in the region. Please make sure to review the District's annual rate survey, which will appear in the next newsletter.



New Headquarters Building Groundbreaking Ceremony

L-R: Engineering Manager Ken Miller; Commissioners Donald Miller, Leonard Englund, Laura Belvin, Peter Sanchez; and General Manager John Bowman.