



# LAKEHAVEN UTILITY DISTRICT

31627 1st Ave. S. | PO Box 4249 | Federal Way, WA 98063-4249  
Federal Way: 253-941-1516, Tacoma: 253-927-2922 | [www.lakehaven.org](http://www.lakehaven.org)

July- August 2015 Newsletter

## Commissioner's Corner – Don Miller



Now that summer has finally arrived, it is time to get out and enjoy the extraordinary benefits of living in this part of the country. We enjoy time spent outdoors in our garden this time of year (our friends and family love the fresh fruit, berries and vegetables we grow!), visits with friends and family and the wonderful opportunities we have to see the best that nature has to offer. The view of the Puget Sound from Dash Point or Redondo, or the sight of Mt. Rainier from just about anywhere, provides a constant reminder of how lucky we are to call this area home.

Much has been mentioned about drought conditions across many parts of the country and the impacts that it is having as residential and commercial customers of water utilities are forced to drastically reduce their water use. The good news is that we are not experiencing a water shortage. This is due to the fact that the District has committed a great deal of financial and planning resources, over many years, to develop redundant sources of water supply. Thanks to these efforts, we have a source of ground water that can take the burden off of the surface water supply system that we have developed with Tacoma and other partners (the "Second Supply Pipeline") during low snowpack years, and a surface water system that can allow the ground water system to rest and recharge when surface water is fully available. Not only is water available at the District, but the water we produce is of the highest quality and is provided at the bottom of the range of water rates charged in this region. Even with the ample supply, however, we do encourage you to use water wisely.

In May, we participated in the grand opening of the new Tacoma Water Filtration Plant located along the upper end of the Second Supply Pipeline (near the Howard Hanson Dam). The newly constructed Filtration Plant serves two purposes. It makes sure that no harmful organisms are introduced into the public water supply, its primary purpose, and also reduces turbidity in the water taken from the river, making it clear enough to be available during times of high runoff in the Green River watershed. The availability of this sustainable source of water is our reward for the partnership we entered into with Kent, Tacoma and the Covington Water District. The lesson that we take away from our experience over the long development of the Second Supply Pipeline Project is that having water available to meet the full demands of a thirsty residential and business community is not an accident; it occurs as a result of good, long-range planning.

We also take great pride in the sewer service we provide. Our treatment plants regularly win recognition from the Department of Ecology for the reliable and effective treatment of your wastewater.

So, we persevere in our efforts to serve you. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact us.

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**Leonard D. Englund**  
Commissioner

**Charles I. Gibson**  
Commissioner

**Timothy A. McClain**  
Commissioner

**Donald L.P. Miller**  
Commissioner

**Ronald E. Nowicki**  
Commissioner

## Green River Filtration Facility Opening



Pictured above left to right are Stan French, Ron Nowicki, Linda Kochmar, Steve Pritchett, Don Miller, Tim McClain and John Bowman

District representatives attended the dedication of the Green River Filtration Facility on May 4<sup>th</sup>. With preliminary design work on the project beginning in 2010, the project to build the Filtration Facility, jointly undertaken by the District and its Second Supply Pipeline partners (Tacoma, Kent and the Covington Water District), took five years to complete. Although originally estimated to cost \$217,000,000, the project came in at a cost of \$187,000,000. The District's share of the project costs were approximately \$22,000,000 and have been funded primarily by low-interest loans from the State's Public Works Trust and Revolving Loan Funds.

The Filtration Facility provides state-of-the-art treatment of water from the Green River, the source water for the Second Supply Pipeline project. The Facility was designed to remove harmful organisms, such as cryptosporidium from the water, however, it will also remove organic and inorganic sediments to ensure that the water's clarity is not impacted during periods of high rainfall or snow melt in the Green River Watershed.

When operated at full capacity, the plant can treat up to 150 million gallons of water per day. Of this volume of treated water, the District is permitted to draw 12.6 million gallons of water per day on average from the Green River Supply.

Many congratulations go to the project management team at the City of Tacoma for their capable stewardship of this project. With the completion of the Green River Filtration Facility, District customers will have an ample supply of clean, safe water for many decades to come!

## **2015 POSTER CONTEST WINNERS**

Lakehaven Utility District presented awards to local elementary students participating in its 19<sup>th</sup> annual Water Conservation Poster Contest at the District's May 28<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The purpose of the contest is to help children

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understand the importance of water conservation through the development of posters containing a water conservation message. The artwork is featured each year in the District's Water Conservation Calendar.

Approximately 81 members of the community, including students and their families, teachers and principals attended the Board meeting. There were 186 poster entries submitted from 5 Federal Way Elementary Schools. The poster entries were judged by a panel of five judges and thirteen winning posters were selected to include in the District's 2016 Water Conservation Calendar.

Board President Don Miller presented the awards to students. Commissioners Tim McClain, Len Englund, Ron Nowicki and Chuck Gibson were also in attendance.

A special *"Thank you!"* goes to Wild Waves, SKFR Fire Station, Red Canoe Credit Union, Woodstone Credit Union, Costco and Trader Joe's for their generous donations to the contest winners.



#### **WATER CONSERVATION CALENDAR POSTER CONTEST WINNERS**

L-R 1<sup>st</sup> Row: Meadow R., Humda K., Shreenidhi S. & Callen M. (1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner)

L-R 2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Nana C., Ashley L., Lauren C., Brittany A., Hannah G., Alex D., Shreeram S., Jessica T., & Nika K.

L-R 3<sup>rd</sup> Row: Commissioners Gibson, Nowicki, Miller, Englund & McClain

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Kid's Corner – SKFR Scout Night



### Lakehaven's Pipe Cleaning Demonstration Table

Lakehaven participated in South King Fire & Rescue (SKFR) Scout Night event for local Boys and Girl Scout troops held on May 19th. In addition to the activities and equipment on display by the Fire Department, Lakehaven joined in on the fun with additional activities, displays, water conservation information and equipment used by the utility.

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