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South Suburban Sanitary  
District  
2201 Laverne Avenue,  
Klamath Falls, OR 97603  
www.sssd.org 541-882-5744

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**“Please plan on attending the Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting in support of the District project, as this project is critical to maintaining affordable sewer rates”**

## The TMDL and Your Sewer Rates *by Michael Fritschi*

The anticipated Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies have been completed. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is working with the District to renew our NPDES permit. The NPDES permit allows the District to discharge treated effluent into the Klamath River.

Due to the adoption of the TMDL results and the resulting load allocations, the District will not be able to meet permit limits for phosphorus, ammonia, nitrogen, and temperature by continuing to discharge into the Klamath River with the current level of treatment.

The most economically feasible option is for the District to construct a recycled water project where the District would utilize treated recycled water to irrigate agricultural feed stock. This project would keep local agricultural land permanently viable and allow the District to avoid costly TMDL related improvements.

The good news is that the District has saved close to the amount of capital needed to fully fund the project and may avoid financing all together. This will lead to stabilization of sewer rates and system development fees.

The District has submitted a conditional use permit (CUP) application to Klamath County to allow the project to move forward. The approval must go before the **County Planning Commission on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6 PM**, at the Klamath County Government Center, 305 Main Street, in room 219.

**Should this project not be approved by the County, it would force the construction of a very expensive treatment facility, the District would be forced to drastically increase sewer rates to finance compliance with the TMDL. The District would prefer to keep sewer rates stabilized and provide recycled water for local farming.**

Please plan on attending this important meeting in support of the District project, as this **project approval** is not only **critical to maintaining affordable sewer rates**, but for the overall economic wellbeing of the County at large. If you are unable to attend, please write to your County Board of Commissioners that you support the approval of the District’s conditional use permit. This is a very pivotal time for the South Suburban Sanitary District, and the District needs your support.

## Everything you wanted to know about Annual Billing

Sewer service fees assessed by the district are billed to property owners in July of every year based on customer type. Customers not opting to pay their sewer service fee annually, can elect to pay the quarterly amount due by the end of each quarter. The District sends out quarterly bills that are due Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, March 31<sup>st</sup>, and June 30<sup>th</sup>. To avoid additional service fees, please pay by the deadlines.

The District assesses a flat sewer fee to each individual **residential** dwelling unit within the service area of the district. As of July 1, 2019, this annual rate is \$450.24 (the equivalent of \$37.52/month) and the quarterly rate is currently \$112.56.

Commercial users are assessed sewer fees based on the flat residential fee and an additional use fee based on water consumption by the user. The fee is \$450.24 for the first 2400 cubic feet of water used. For all water consumption in excess of 2400 cubic feet of water, the user is charged an additional fee of \$1.93 per 100 cubic feet of water used. The water use is estimated using the previous year's metered use.

### Are you getting your discounts?



**Senior Discount** - You can get 15% off your annual bill if you are 65 or older and live in the home that is being billed. Simply bring your driver's license in and fill out a Senior Discount Form to get signed up. You can also download the form from our website at [www.sssd.org](http://www.sssd.org) and send it in the mail with a copy of your driver's license.

**Early Pay Discount** - You can qualify for 4% off your annual bill by paying your entire annual bill prior to September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**“You can get 15% off your annual bill if you are 65 or older”**

### How do I pay?

You have 4 options to pay: online, over the phone, at District Office, or by mail. For **online** or by **phone** payment using a debit or credit card, the District uses a third party to complete the transactions. There will be a 2.5% charge to use the online or pay by phone feature. You can find a link or phone number on the front page of our website: [www.sssd.org](http://www.sssd.org). If you have a bank that has online banking available, you can use this service (often with no surcharge) and pay using your online banking application.

### What is the future of our Sewer Rates?

As mentioned earlier, a great deal depends on the District being able to obtain a conditional use permit from the County to build our lowest cost solution to address the TMDL. After the recycled water project is completed, the District will determine long term capital and operating costs and how the rates can be stabilized while still serving the sewer needs of the District. The good news is that the District is in excellent financial shape and the District has every reason to believe that should the County approve the conditional use permit; the rates will be able to be stabilized on a long-term basis.



## South Suburban Going Solar!

Your local sanitary district will be completing a 700-kW solar net metering project this spring. The installation of the net metering project will result in the District generating its entire electricity use via solar.

**It is estimated that the District will save over \$1.75 million in power charges over the next 25 years.** These savings will result in a lower operating cost to our ratepayers.

To help offset the cost of installation, the District has qualified for a \$250,000 renewable energy grant from the Oregon Department of Energy. In addition, the installation will displace the equivalent CO2 emissions from the annual electric use of 2,870 homes, or the equivalent of a reduction of 50,618,000 auto miles, or 2,581,518 gallons of gasoline.

## To Flush or not to Flush?

Please help keep District maintenance costs down by keeping improper items out of the public sewer. These items tend to build up and clog your service lateral and mainlines and can potentially cause spills and contamination and lead to an unnecessary increase in operational costs. Ratepayers ultimately end up paying for the burden of paying fines from spills or removing these items from the sewer.

### What Not to Flush (or put down the garbage disposal or drain)

Personal Care Products	Medical Supplies	Household Trash
Baby wipes	Hypodermic needles	Cat litter
Bandages and wrappers	Medications	Chemicals and solvents
Condoms and wrappers	Vitamins	Cigarette butts
Cotton balls and swabs	Supplements	Coffee grounds
Dental floss		Disposable mop and duster heads
Diapers		Fruit stickers
Facial tissue		Fat, cooking oil, grease
Feminine hygiene products		Paint
Moist bathroom wipes		Paper towels



**“Ratepayers ultimately end up paying for the burden of removing these items from the sewer.”**



Serving the South Suburbs Since 1958!

## *Open this Newsletter to Learn About the Future of Your Sewer Rates!*

**Call 811 Before You Dig!**

The South Suburban Sanitary District thanks you for your patronage and wishes you a Great New Year!



Serving the South Suburbs Since 1958!

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**Board Position #1** – Mike Griffith

**Board Position #2** – Jim Bellet, Board Chairman

**Board Position #3** – Charles Dehlinger

**District Manager** – Michael T. Fritschi, P.E.

**Open Monday-Friday 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM**