

Connections

January/February 2016



Going the Extra Mile to Ensure Quality Service

The District has recently been awarded a second re-accreditation from the American Public Works Association (APWA).

APWA is an international educational and professional association of public agencies, private sector companies, and individuals dedicated to providing high quality public works services. The purpose of the accreditation program is to provide a means of formally verifying and recognizing public works agencies for going above and beyond national standards in the industry and achieving compliance with the recommended practices set forth in the Public Works Management Practices Manual. Accreditation is a voluntary documentation and evaluation process. It provides the District with a framework for ensuring continued effective and efficient management, engineering, maintenance and operations procedures that are measured against national best practices standards.

The District was first awarded accreditation in 2005, making it the first special purpose district with this accreditation. Since then, the District has been re-accredited twice, in 2009 and 2015. The process of receiving the second re-accreditation involved evaluation by a team of independent public works professionals from across the nation and Canada. This team provided an in-depth, objective review of the District's operations, policies and procedures during an onsite visit in October, 2015.

General Manager, John Peterson explains: "Re-accreditation is important because it allows us to continue our professional advancement while measuring our programs and services against APWA best practices. This is consistent with our commitment to delivering high quality, affordable, and reliable service that is at and above the national standards of our industry."

For more information, visit:

www.apwa.net/credentialing/accreditation



Hours of Operation

Monday-Friday,
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Closed Weekends
& Holidays

Emergency?

Call 24/7:
360-750-5876

Commissioners

Norm Harker
Neil Kimsey
Denny Kiggins

General Manager

John M. Peterson

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2016 Budget and Rates

The District puts a great deal of effort into both short-term and long-term financial planning. These efforts help us provide the most benefit to our customers by ensuring high service levels while offering some of the lowest rates in the state. The District recently adopted a balanced budget totaling \$28.6 million for 2016. Some of the budget highlights are:

Revenue

- **\$18.5 million** from sewer rates.
- **\$4.7 million** in sewer connection fees from development.
- **\$1.3 million** from investments and other income.
- **\$4.1 million** one-time transfer from reserves.

Expenses

- **\$8.8 million** treatment costs.
- **\$8.3 million** operational costs (this includes wastewater conveyance of nearly 8 million gallons each day from homes and businesses to the treatment plant).
- **\$2 million** debt service (annual debt payments for capital infrastructure).
- **\$9.5 million** construction costs to continue to repair and expand the wastewater system.

Rate Increase

The 2016 budget also includes a rate increase for our customers. This increase is the final step in a rate plan enacted in 2012 by our Board of Commissioners.

Starting January 1, 2016, the base sewer service rate for a single-family residence will rise \$1 per month to a total of \$38. Customers in the Ridgefield service area will see a small increase in their total monthly rates from \$61.38 to \$62.15 in 2016. The Ridgefield area pays a higher rate to help cover the costs of integrating the collection system into the larger District system.

This rate plan adjustment will ensure adequate funding to continue to provide reliable and predictable service.

For more information on our 2016 budget, visit us at www.crwwd.com.

Did you know?

The District offers multiple options for paying your sewer bill. To learn more, visit the website:

www.crwwd.com/payment-options.html

We Want to Connect with You!

The District continues to be involved in a number of projects within our region that help support future economic development, protect public health and the environment, and provide efficient, high-quality sewer service at the lowest possible cost.

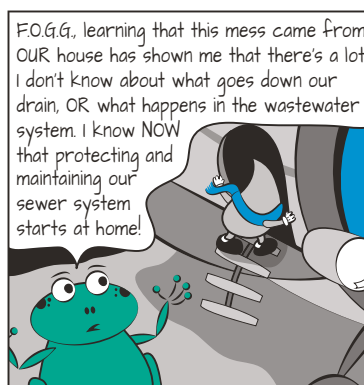
We want to keep you informed and aware of what the District is doing, not only in terms of our construction projects, but also to educate about the important work we do to operate, maintain and repair the sewer system. One of the ways we can do this is by joining you and your neighbors, business associates, classmates, or friends at one of your regular meetings.

If you are interested in having a District speaker at one of your meetings, we would be happy to arrange it. Please contact Kim Thur at (360) 993-8822 or by email at kthur@crwwd.com.



District staff are available to speak at your community gatherings.

Frog and the F.O.G.G.



12-7-2015