

# Connections

January/February 2023



## Upcoming rate changes

The District works hard to provide excellent service at competitive rates and will continue to strive for efficiencies and cost savings in our operations. We, like our ratepayers, are experiencing increased financial pressure and must address inflation and the rising cost of goods and services.

## Keeping future rates stable

The District recently completed a multi-year review of our finances. We developed a financial plan that will allow us to continue providing reliable service and keep rate increases low. In 2023, the base rate will increase by \$1.50 per month (3.6%) or \$18 per year. Annual rates will continue to increase by only \$1.50 per month through 2026.

Rate schedule					
Base Monthly Rate*	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	\$42	<b>\$43.50</b>	\$45.00	\$46.50	\$48.00
\$ Change	NA	<b>\$1.50</b>	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50
Ridgefield Rate	\$58.96	<b>\$58.85</b>	\$59–\$61 (Estimate)		

\*Battle Ground and Vancouver ratepayers, please check the District's website for final rates in your area.

This increase is well below the current inflation rate of about 7–9%. And by minimally raising the rates, we were able to avoid borrowing money in the future. This will save our ratepayers from paying interest on borrowed money.

With these changes, the District still maintains competitive rates locally and in the region. Most of our ratepayers pay a flat base rate which helps prevent unpredictable bills. District customers in Ridgefield pay a higher rate due to the higher cost of service for that area, which is adjusted each year based on growth.

### Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Closed Weekends  
and Holidays

### Emergency?

Call 24/7:  
360-750-5876

### Commissioners

Norm Harker  
Denny Kiggins  
Neil Kimsey

### General Manager

John M. Peterson, P.E.



Visit us online at [www.CRWWD.com](http://www.CRWWD.com)

## Your rates at work

Your sewer service rates ensure that the District can continue to protect public health and safeguard water quality by efficiently and effectively collecting, conveying, and treating our wastewater. Each day the District collects approximately eight to 10 million gallons of sewage. This comes from roughly more than 36,000 residential and 1,200 commercial customers over a roughly 47 square-mile service area. The service charge is necessary for the District to provide you with a high level of reliable and professional service.

Learn more about our rates and service areas at [crwwd.com/rates](http://crwwd.com/rates)

## Environmentally Friendly Resolutions for 2023

Take actions that can limit the presence of pollutants and chemicals in wastewater and our waterways that are commonly introduced in and around the home.

- Educate yourself about the products you use.
- Choose safer and more environmentally friendly products.
- Buy personal care or household products without “PFTE” or “FLOURO” ingredients plastic microbeads, synthetic fragrances, parabens and phthalates.



### Keep our sewers grease free

Here are some important tips to remember:

- **Scrape, freeze and trash grease.** The best way to dispose of grease is an airtight container in the garbage.
- **Soap and detergents DO NOT break up grease.** They may initially break up grease but lose that ability as they travel, causing problems in pipes further downstream.
- **Garbage disposals DO NOT get rid of grease.** They only shred leftover fats but don't get rid of it.
- **Running hot tap water does NOT help.** The grease cools down and solidifies as it flows through pipes.
- **Liquid oils CAN solidify.** Olive oil, for example, can still solidify in pipes as temperatures dip often lower in the pipes inside and outside of your house.

Request a free Freeze the Grease kit at [bit.ly/crwwdgrease](http://bit.ly/crwwdgrease)

**Go paperless** Sign up to receive your bill by email or pay online. The District offers many payment options.

Learn more at [bit.ly/crwwdpay](http://bit.ly/crwwdpay)