



www.skywayws.org

SKY LINES

March 2025

A Decades-Long Record of Transparency and Responsible Reporting

Every year, the Washington State Auditor’s Office (SAO) conducts an audit of the District’s financial statements. The purpose of the audit is to assess the District’s compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policies and procedures, and the safeguarding of public resources. The financial audit for **fiscal year 2022** has been completed and this marks the **31st consecutive year** that **no findings were reported** by the State Auditor!!



This accomplishment reflects the historical and ongoing commitment of the District’s Board of Commissioners and employees to providing strong operational oversight, excellent internal controls, and accurate financial reporting. We thank you for the opportunity to provide you, our customers, with fiscally sound management of your publicly owned water and sewer systems and resources.

Cascade Water Alliance Connects Communities for Clean, Safe and Reliable Water Supply

(First in a series of articles about your water supply)

A portion of Skyway’s drinking water comes from the Cedar River Watershed, a water source in the Cascade Mountains that is treated to meet all state and federal water quality standards. Skyway is a member of and receives this water supply through the Cascade Water Alliance (Cascade or CWA) contract with Seattle Public Utilities. But do you know what that means, how it came to be and what the future holds for Skyway’s water supply? The idea for a regional water supply coalition came to fruition over 25 years ago when fast growing East and South King County communities were faced with the possibility of diminished water supplies from Seattle. These communities were growing, would need water in the future and wanted a say in how that happened. In 1999, Cascade was officially formed when a small group of cities and water districts joined together to create a regional water supply governance model to have a voice and a vote in their water future and ensure their communities would have enough water for growth and economic development.

Skyway Water & Sewer District: Ensuring Responsible Rate Setting

The Board of Commissioners of Skyway Water and Sewer District is responsible for setting water and sewer rates. Each year, with the support of District staff and consultants, they conduct open public meetings to evaluate the District’s operating, maintenance, and capital replacement needs. While the health impacts of COVID-19 have lessened and become more manageable, lingering and unpredictable cost fluctuations continue to affect the District and its customers.

Beyond the daily costs of operating the water and sewer systems, the Commissioners must also plan for necessary repairs and replacements as infrastructure ages. This is an ongoing effort, particularly as some sewer facilities were installed as far back as 80 years ago.

The **2025 Rate Study** is currently in progress. Once finalized, any rate adjustments for 2025 will **take effect on March 1** and will **appear on your May bill** (covering March and April service). Please note that the **enclosed bill reflects a 5.75% increase in pass-through sewer charges for King County** sewage treatment.

As a reminder, customer rates cover all ongoing system operations and capital projects. The District **operates solely on these rates and does not receive any tax revenue.**

Capital Construction Update

Construction of the **80th Avenue South Sewer Extension** project by R.L. Alia began on January 6th and has progressed very well. The sewer main lines and stubs along 80th Ave S and S 126th St are complete. By the time you receive this issue, installation of the side sewer connections and decommissioning of septic tanks is expected to be well underway. This project includes construction of ~850 linear feet of new sewer main along 80th Avenue South beginning in the 12800 block, then north across Renton Avenue South, and continuing further north to the intersection at South 126th Street. This extension makes public sewer available to residents currently on septic systems in the project area. This project is funded in part by a grant from the King County Climate Equity Pool, administered by the Public Health Equitable Wastewater Futures program.

Construction of the **First Cities Pump Station Pump Replacement** project by Gary Harper Construction, Inc. began on February 18th and is expected to be complete in March. The project is located in the Martin Luther King Jr Way S right-of-way and the work includes replacement of two existing sewer pumps and associated pipes and valves; traffic control; removal and disposal of existing pumps, pipes, and valves; installation of new pumps, piping and valves; temporary by-pass pump installation; installation of temporary and permanent fencing; and restoration.

Contact the District at info@skywayws.org or 206-772-7343 if you would like more information.



FIRE PROTECTION CLASS UPGRADE FOR KING COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 20

We are excited to announce that the Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau (WSRB) has upgraded King County Fire District 20's protection class rating from a Class 4 to a Class 3.

This improvement highlights the district's dedication to providing exceptional fire protection services. It also offers an opportunity for community members to connect with their insurance providers to potentially secure better premiums. While exact savings cannot be guaranteed, some insurance companies use this rating as a factor in determining rates.

To assist residents in taking advantage of this opportunity, we have prepared downloadable materials that can be shared directly with insurance companies. These resources can be accessed by scanning the QR code below.

We appreciate your continued support as we work to serve and protect our community.



WHCA News and Updates

- **Spring Quarterly Community Meeting** – Tuesday, April 15th, at 6:30 PM at Lakeridge Elementary. Stay informed on community updates, upcoming events, and ways to get involved. Your voice matters!
- **Volunteer & Get Involved!** – Help make a difference in our community! Sign up to volunteer or consider taking on a leadership role to support local initiatives. Learn more at MyWestHill.org/join.
- **Skyway Park Earth Month Volunteer Event** – Celebrate Earth Month by giving back to our local park! Saturday, April 26th, from 9 AM to noon at Skyway Park. Take part in park beautification, litter cleanup, and community connection. MyWestHill.org/events



Our website, socials, & newsletter are great ways to stay in the loop!

MyWestHill.org/connect



WEST HILL
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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2025 LOW INCOME SENIOR CITIZEN / SOCIAL SECURITY (SSI) DISABILITY DISCOUNT FORM

Name: _____ Account #: _____

Property Address: _____ Phone #: _____

Birth Date: _____

I am the **OWNER** or **TENANT** (*circle one*) at the address listed above.

Check the following which are true:

I am 62 years of age or older or my spouse is 62 years of age or older.

OR

My age or that of my spouse is less than 62, but I or my spouse are recipients of US Social Security (SSI) Disability payments.

My gross household income from ALL SOURCES (including 100% of social security and other pension) for 2024 was less than the following:

1 person household: **\$52,700/year or \$4,391/month**

OR

2+ person household: **\$60,250/year or \$5,020/month**

DECLARATION:

I swear under the laws of the State of Washington, under the penalty of perjury, that the foregoing statements are true and correct:

Signature

City where signed

Date

Annual renewal of this form is required for program eligibility. **Return form by 3/31/2025.**