

# VALLEY WATER DISTRICT WET GAZETTE

2025 WINTER EDITION

14515 Pioneer Way East \* Puyallup WA 98372 \*(253)841-9698 M-F 7am-3:30pm

Email: [service@valleywaterdistrict.com](mailto:service@valleywaterdistrict.com) Website: [www.valleywaterdistrict.com](http://www.valleywaterdistrict.com)

## New Water Rates

### Effective January 1, 2025

The Board of Commissioners has adopted the 2025 base fee and water use rates to take effect for all billings generated on or after January 1, 2025. After much discussion and review of the 2025 budget, the Board of Commissioners has adopted a 4% increase on base rate and water use charges for all systems. These rates will take effect for all billings generated on or after January 1, 2025.

For a full copy of the current rates for your system, please visit the District website at [www.valleywaterdistrict.com](http://www.valleywaterdistrict.com), send an email to [service@valleywaterdistrict.com](mailto:service@valleywaterdistrict.com), or call the District office at 253-841-9698.

### Valley Water District Mission:

*"To provide safe and reliable water to all of the District's customers."*



Utility Taxes are on the horizon!

### City of Bonney Lake Utility Tax

The City of Bonney Lake will begin enforcing a utility tax equal to 12% of the gross revenue collected from customers who live inside the city limits of Bonney Lake effective January 1, 2025.

#### Who is affected by this tax?

Customers who live within the city limits of Bonney Lake will see a separate line item charge identified as a City of Bonney Lake Pass Through Charge and will be billed an additional 12% on their total bi-monthly billing charges. The amount collected will be reported and paid directly to the City of Bonney Lake each quarter.

### Pierce County Utility Tax?

The Pierce County Council will be considering implementing a Utility Tax on residents in unincorporated Pierce County.

#### What can I do about this?

Contact the Council Member in your District to share your concerns and discuss the impact that a utility tax would have on your household budget. To find your Council Member based on your address see this website:

<https://matterhornwab.co.pierce.wa.us/infobyaddress/>

**Board of Commissioners \* Robert Fulton \* Christine Johnson \* Ted Hardiman**

Meetings are held at 2:00pm on the first and third Mondays of each month. Ratepayers are encouraged to attend open and public board meetings. See details on our website. ([www.valleywaterdistrict.com](http://www.valleywaterdistrict.com))

# Water System Projects & Upgrades

## Capital Improvement Projects...

One of the primary responsibilities of a Public Water System is to plan for and fund Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). CIP's are projects that are identified by the District as required repairs and replacement of aging infrastructure, or addition of facilities to increase the safety and reliability of the Public Water System. A portion of the bi-monthly customer water billings and Connection Charges for new customers are used to fund Capital Improvement Projects.

Due to the age and condition of many of the systems the District has taken over, there are many projects identified in the Water System Plan for repair, replacement and addition of infrastructure. The District has been very active over the last few years and continues to implement CIP's to improve reliability and service to our customers. Here are some of the projects that have been completed or are under construction at this time.

***your money at work on system improvements!***

### Alderwood System Service Line Replacement

Still In Process

This project will replace the remaining original service lines (the pipe that connects the watermain to the water meter) and some small sections of watermain. This system has a very high system leakage and has averaged 3-5 service line leaks a year over the last several years. The District will also relocate any meters that are currently located in customers' yards outside of the Right of Way (ROW) back to the edge of ROW, closer to the road. The construction is expected to be scheduled for the Summer of 2025.

### Valley System SR 162 Phase 5

Still In Process

The District is wrapping up the design and review phase of this project to replace undersized watermain on SR 162 south of 128th St E. This portion of watermain will include several fire hydrants and should provide adequate water pressure to residents who at times have experienced diminished pressure during summer months. The project should go out to bid in early 2025 with construction in the Summer of 2025.



***The District continues to implement Capital Improvement Projects to improve reliability and service to our customers.***

### Valley System SR 162 Far Side Crossings

Still In Process

The District has approximately 13 service lines on SR 162 that extend from the watermain located on the east side of SR 162 and run under the State Highway to meters on the west side of the highway. These service lines are galvanized pipe originally installed when the system was constructed many years ago. This project finally received approval from WSDOT and can now proceed with final review and go out to bid in early 2025.

# Water System Projects & Upgrades (continued)

## Sierra System Fencing

Completed

The District staff installed split rail cedar fencing around the well site property in an effort to prevent vandals from operating vehicles on/damaging District property.



Sierra System Fencing

## Sierra System Backup Well

Completed—  
pending Approval

The work on the Backup Well has been completed, but the District is still waiting for final approval from Department of Health before being able to use the well.

## Country/Eldorado PRV Projects

Still in Process

The District is still in the engineering/design phase of another PRV replacement/relocation project. The existing PRV vault on 229th Ave is old and needing replacement. The District is working to replace this vault and relocate it to a point in the distribution system that will better serve the residents downstream. The District will also install a second PRV in this same pressure zone, which will serve to protect several homes which currently have elevated pressure due to the topography and original layout of the distribution system.

## Region 5 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for 2025-2030

Valley Water District worked with Pierce County's Department of Emergency Management to complete the update for the District's Hazard Mitigation Plan for 2020-2025 and is already working on the next Hazard Mitigation Plan update for 2025-2030.

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) describes "Hazard Mitigation" as any sustainable action that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from future disasters. Mitigation planning breaks the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction and repeated damage.

If you have any concerns or ideas of hazards that you as a customer think Valley Water District should be aware of, please feel free to send an email to: [service@valleywaterdistrict.com](mailto:service@valleywaterdistrict.com).

Pierce County Emergency Management's website is a valuable resource of information about the hazards in Pierce County as well as information about planning and preparing for emergencies. See the website at ([piercecountywa.gov/104/Emergency-Management](http://piercecountywa.gov/104/Emergency-Management)).

## Valley Water District Service Line Inventory Questions Answered

### Why did the District do a Service Line Inventory?

An EPA ruling required every Public Water System to conduct an inventory of all public and private water lines to determine if the system had any lead service lines.

**Were any lead service lines found?** The District is confident that there are no lead service lines in any of the systems based on the knowledge, experience and history of our current staff over the last 20+ years with no lead found during maintenance and repairs in that time period.

**Why did I get a Notification about the Service Line Inventory?** Since all of the systems were either purchased or donated to the District, there are not accurate system drawings showing the materials installed in each system. So, the District had to list many of the service lines as "Unknown, likely not lead", and the EPA required the District to notify any customers that have any portion of the service line listed as unknown.

**What can I need do to help?** If your home was built before 1986 and you know what your service line material is you can call in or email that information so that we can update that. Many customers have already provided their service line material information, but still may have gotten the notification if the District side of the service was listed as "Unknown".

See the website at [www.valleywaterdistrict.com](http://www.valleywaterdistrict.com) and select the Service Line Inventory for more details.



## Help Us Keep Your Water Meters and Fire Hydrants Accessible

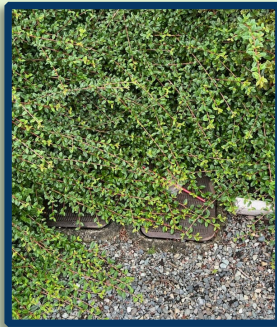
*Servicing water meters is usually straightforward—unless we have to search for the meter in overgrown foliage, or worse, perform tree and shrub maintenance to access it.*

The same is true of fire hydrants—routine maintenance tasks take much longer when we have to clear away vegetation. Even worse, it may prevent the fire department from accessing the hydrant during an emergency.

**Please take a moment to check your meters and hydrants:**

- ◆ Trim away any shrubs or ground covers that are hiding the equipment.
- ◆ When buying new plants, verify their size upon maturity: please don't plant bushes or plants that will eventually cover your meter or hydrant.
- ◆ Do not install landscape bricks, rocks, or retaining walls that block our staff or firemen from accessing your water meter or fire hydrant.
- ◆ Before installing a fence over the meter box or expanding your driveway, contact the District to discuss the options available to you while still keeping the meter area accessible.

If the District needs access to the meter and it is blocked, action may be taken to gain access such as cutting trees, clearing brush, having vehicles towed, etc. The District may charge the property owner for work done in order to clear the meter or area around a hydrant.



### Meter clearance details:

- ◆ 1 foot vertical minimum
- ◆ 5 feet horizontal minimum
- ◆ No vegetation planted within a 3 foot radius of meter box
- ◆ Meter shall be accessible by direct line of travel from road

### Hydrant clearance details:

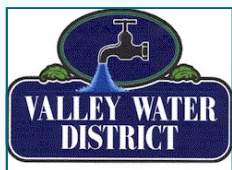
- ◆ Minimum 5' radius without obstructions
- ◆ Hydrant must be visible for 50" in the direction of vehicular approach
- ◆ Hydrants shall be accessible for fire department pumpers.

## Keeping you informed during Water-Related Events...

**Has your mailing address changed?**

**Do you have a new phone number or email address?**

**In order to communicate with you about any water-related emergencies, please make sure you update your contact information.**



**Office Hours:**  
**M-F 7am-3:30pm**  
**(253)841-9698**

**Email: [Billing@valleywaterdistrict.com](mailto:Billing@valleywaterdistrict.com)**

**Website: [www.valleywaterdistrict.com](http://www.valleywaterdistrict.com)**

## Building a fence?

## Expanding your driveway?

**If you are planning something like building a fence or expanding your driveway, here are some things to consider:**

- ◆ Will the fence block access to the meter?
- ◆ Can the meter box be driven over?
- ◆ Will the driveway expansion material cover the meter box?
- ◆ What happens if I cement the driveway around the meter box?

**It's a good idea to reach out to the District regarding changes like this that may have an impact on meter access. In some cases, customers may be charged to move the meter out from behind a fence or to put in a traffic rated box when a driveway is expanded.**