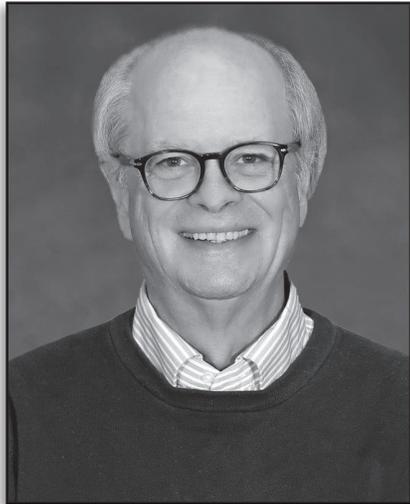


The Pipeline

Summer 2022

Commissioner's Corner



Commissioner Chuck Clarke

Utility Rates 101

For most customers of the Woodinville Water District the only interaction they have with us is when they turn on their water, flush their toilet or pay their water or sewer bill. In this article we are going to provide information on what your utility bill (determined by rates) pays for, what the last ten (10) years of utility rate increases looked like, and finally some thoughts on future rates which determines customer bills.

As background information, the Districts' annual budget is approximately \$28 million (\$21 million for water and \$7 million for sewer). Currently the District has 18,000 customer accounts (14,780 water customer accounts and 3,482 sewer customer accounts).

Let's start by talking about typical water and sewer bills. These typical bills are simply examples of what a customer could pay based on what we see in general use patterns by our customers.

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An average water bill is \$69/month. Of this bill \$17 (approximately 25%) pays for water purchased from the City of Seattle, \$25 (approximately 36%) pays for operation, maintenance, and new construction of water infrastructure (current infrastructure including pipes, pumps and storage tanks have a replacement value of approximately \$350-400 million) and finally \$27 (approximately 39%) for other costs including billing, customer service, Information Technology and general utility support functions. If you are interested in what your own bill pays for, you apply above percentages to your bill to determine your bill profile.

A typical sewer bill is \$78/month. Of this bill \$47 (approximately 61%) pays for treatment purchased from King County, \$15 (approximately 19%) pays for operation, maintenance, and new infrastructure and finally \$16 (approximately 20%) for other costs including billing, customer service, Information Technology and general utility support functions. Like water bills you can apply these percentages to your own bill to personalize your sewer bill composition.

For the last ten (10) years the average water bill has increased from \$52.90 to \$69, an average increase of \$1.61/year (3.04%/year). This increase has two components, the increased amount paid to Seattle for water purchases (\$.38/year, 1.06% year) and the increases needed by Woodinville to provide water services (\$12.35/year, 7.06%/year).

continued on page 2...



Woodinville Water District

Providing safe and reliable service with responsible rates since 1959.

Commissioner's Corner

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For sewer rates, the last 10 years sewer bill have increased from \$65.77 and \$78.07. This increase, like water bills, has two components, the increase driven by King County sewer treatment costs (\$0.95/year, 2.38%/year) and the increases needed by Woodinville to provide sewer services (\$0.28/year, 1.09%/year).

Looking to the future for water rates, the biggest challenges for customer bills will be required investments to repair and maintain the \$400 million in existing infrastructure, new infrastructure investments needed to protect water service in case of major earthquake events, economic impacts like inflation on construction and operational costs and potential increases in the cost of water purchased from Seattle.

For sewer bills the most significant risk for future customer bills is the potential cost increases currently being forecasted for treatment costs paid to King County that are anticipated to more than double in the next 5-10 years.

The other challenges include a new fee (a rental fee) that will need to be paid to King County for Woodinville infrastructure located within the King County Right of Way (based on a recent Court decision), investments required to repair and maintain the existing \$75-\$100



million in existing infrastructure, new infrastructure investments required to protect sewer services in case of earthquakes and finally economic uncertainties like inflation which impact all utility costs.

Finally, the Board of Commissioners understands the importance of making sure that our customers receive the highest value for the money they pay to the District. Our commitment is not only to protect and deliver the highest quality utility services to our customers but in the most cost-effective way we can. We are vigilantly working as a District and in tandem with other local Districts to advocate for responsible increases.

The Board of Commissioners meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 5:00pm. The public is welcome to join the meeting in-person at the District Meeting Room or attend by phone via Microsoft Teams. Meeting call-in information is posted on the agenda that can be found on our webpage the Friday prior to each meeting at woodinvillewater.com.

A New Look To Your Utility Bill

The Woodinville Water District is in the process of upgrading to a new Government Financial Billing Software this June. The design of our utility bill will change. Information about the new design bill will be available on our website in June at woodinvillewater.com. The District will continue to offer customers a number of ways to set up your utility account to make payments by visiting the District website and clicking the "Pay Bill" icon on the home page. Contact us at customerservice@woodinvillewater.com or call 425-487-4100

RUN TOWARD SAVINGS...

Start saving with a new smart sprinkler timer that waters according to the weather.

Up to **\$100 rebate** on a WaterSense labeled sprinkler timer.

Learn more at:
savingwater.org/rebates



2021 Drinking Water Quality Annual Report

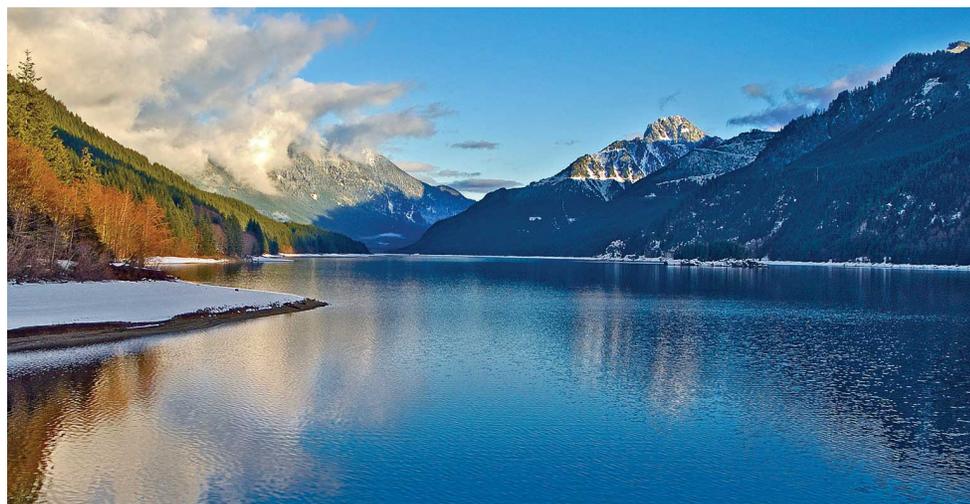


Published in June, 2022

Woodinville Water District takes pride in supplying you and your family with safe reliable drinking water. Our annual Water Quality Report provides information about water testing completed in 2021. It explains what is in our water and how the supply is protected and treated. Thank you for being our customer and for taking the time to learn about your drinking water.

Where Does Our Water Come From?

The Cascade Mountains supply our drinking water. Two very large, protected watersheds, the Cedar River Watershed and the South Fork Tolt River Watershed, supply almost all of Seattle's metropolitan area with drinking water. We purchase all our water from Seattle. Most of our water comes from the Tolt River Watershed, but occasionally we receive water from the Cedar River Watershed. In 2021, all of Woodinville's supply came from the Tolt.



Are Contaminants a Risk?

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.



Who Is Making Sure Our Water Is Safe To Drink?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency and/or the Washington State Board of Health prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration and/or the Washington State Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.



As part of this process, Washington's Source Water Assessment Program is conducted by the Department of Health (DOH) Office of Drinking Water. According to DOH, all surface waters in Washington are given a susceptibility rating of "high", regardless of whether contaminants have been detected or whether there are any sources of contaminants in the watershed. Information on the source water assessments is available from the DOH website at <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/dw/swap/maps/>

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791, or visit epa.gov/safewater.

In Seattle's surface water supplies, the potential sources of contamination include:

- » microbial contaminants, such as viruses, bacteria, and protozoa from wildlife;
- » inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which are naturally occurring; and
- » organic contaminants, which result from chlorine combining with the naturally occurring organic matter.

Lead And Copper And Your Drinking Water – Are You At Risk?

Although there is no detectable lead in our source water, some homes, especially those built before 1985, have some risk of lead contamination from water that sits in pipes longer than several hours. When your plumbing was installed and what type of plumbing you have all play a part in determining your potential exposure level. Seattle treats water in case lead has entered the water, and results show this has been very successful. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Woodinville Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

LEAD AND COPPER MONITORING RESULTS (TOLT WSA)

Parameter and Units	MCLG	Action Level +	Combined Regional Monitoring		WWD's Customers	Source
			2020 Results*	# Homes Exceeding Action Level	# Homes Exceeding Action Level	
Lead, ppb	0	15.0	3.8	0 of 55	0 of 10	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper, ppm	1.3	1.3	0.19	0 of 55	0 of 10	

* 90th Percentile: i.e. 90 percent of the samples were less than the values shown.

+ The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal; ppb = parts per billion; ppm = parts per million

Results from summer of 2020 sampling. Per requirements, the next round of sampling will be done in summer 2023 and results will be reported in the Water Quality Report distributed in 2024.



2021 WATER QUALITY MONITORING RESULTS

Detected Compounds	Units	EPA's Allowable Limits		Levels in Tolt Water		Levels in Cedar Water		Meet USEPA Standards?	Typical Sources
		MCLG	MCL	Average	Range	Average	Range		
RAW WATER									
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	NA	TT	1.09	0.94 – 1.4	0.35	0.3 – 0.96	✓ YES	Naturally present in environment
FINISHED WATER									
Turbidity	NTU	NA	TT	0.03	0.02 – 0.24	0.29	0.17 – 1.97	✓ YES	Soil runoff
Arsenic	ppb	0	10	0.27	0.23 – 0.31	0.42	0.36 – 0.52	✓ YES	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	ppb	2000	2000	1.22	1.17 – 1.32	1.52	1.49 – 1.54	✓ YES	Erosion of natural deposits
Bromate	ppb	0	10	0.7	ND – 8	ND	ND	✓ YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.7	0.6 – 0.8	0.7	0.6 – 0.8	✓ YES	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
Radium 228 **	pCi/L	0	5	0.8	ND – 1.69	0.6	ND – 1.15	✓ YES	Erosion of natural deposits
Coliform, Total	%	0	5%	(No Positive Total Coliform Samples in WWD Distribution System)				✓ YES	Naturally present in environment
DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS (Measured in the Woodinville Water District Distribution Area)									
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	NA	80	39	19 – 44	NA	NA	✓ YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (5) (HAA5)	ppb	NA	60	30	17 – 36	NA	NA	✓ YES	By-product of drinking water chlorination
CL2 RESIDUAL (Measured in the Woodinville Water Distribution Area)									
Chlorine	ppm	MRDLG = 4.0	MRDL = 4.0	Average = 1.29 mg/L Range = 0.24 – 1.73 mg/L				✓ YES	Water additive used to control microbes

** Initial samples showed a slight detection. Follow-up samples showed no detections.

DEFINITIONS:

MCLG: *Maximum Contaminant Level Goal* - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MCL: *Maximum Contaminant Level* - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MRDL: *Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level* - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG: *Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal* - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

TT: *Treatment Technique* - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

NTU: *Nephelometric Turbidity Unit* - Turbidity is a measure of how clear the water looks. The turbidity MCL that applied to the Cedar supply in 2021 is 5 NTU, and for the Tolt supply it was 0.3 NTU for at least 95% of the samples in a month. 100% of Tolt samples in 2021 were below 0.3 NTU.

NA: *Not Applicable*; **ND:** *Not Detected*

ppm: 1 part per million = 1 mg/L = 1 milligram per liter

ppb: 1 part per billion = 1 ug/L = 1 microgram per liter

1 ppm = 1000 ppb

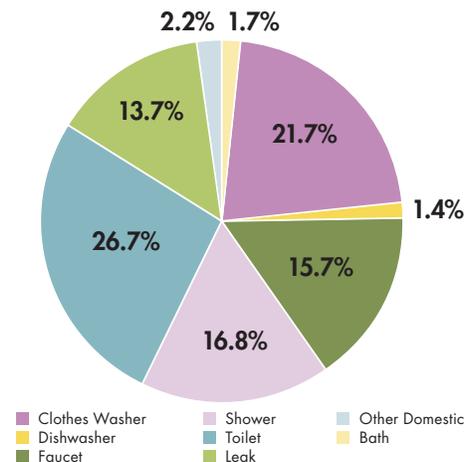
pCi/L = Picocuries per liter

Conservation Program Goals and Results

The Saving Water Partnership (SWP) – which is made up of Woodinville Water District and 18 water utility partners – has set a ten-year conservation goal: keep the total average annual retail water use of SWP members under 110 mgd through 2028, despite forecasted population growth, by reducing per capita water use. For 2021, the Saving Water Partnership met the goal, using 95.5 mgd.

Residential Water Use

Sources: Residential End Uses of Water, AWWA Research Foundation



Do You Have Health Concerns?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Environmental Protection Agency/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

How Can I Get More Info?

WWD Water Quality Office

425-487-4125
waterquality@woodinvillewater.com
www.woodinvillewater.com
 (Click on the Water Quality Tab in the Quick Links Menu)

Seattle Public Utilities, Water Quality Lab

drinkingwater.quality@seattle.gov
www.seattle.gov

Washington State Department of Health

www.doh.wa.gov/ehb/dw

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

www.epa.gov/safewater

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline

1-800-426-4791

Let Us Know About Life Support Issues Requiring Non-Interrupted Water Service

A reminder to all – please be sure to let us know if anyone in your household has a serious health condition requiring water to be available at all times, such as kidney dialysis. We make a note of this on your customer account screen.

Please contact Customer Service at 425-487-4100 or email customerservice@woodinvillewater.com.



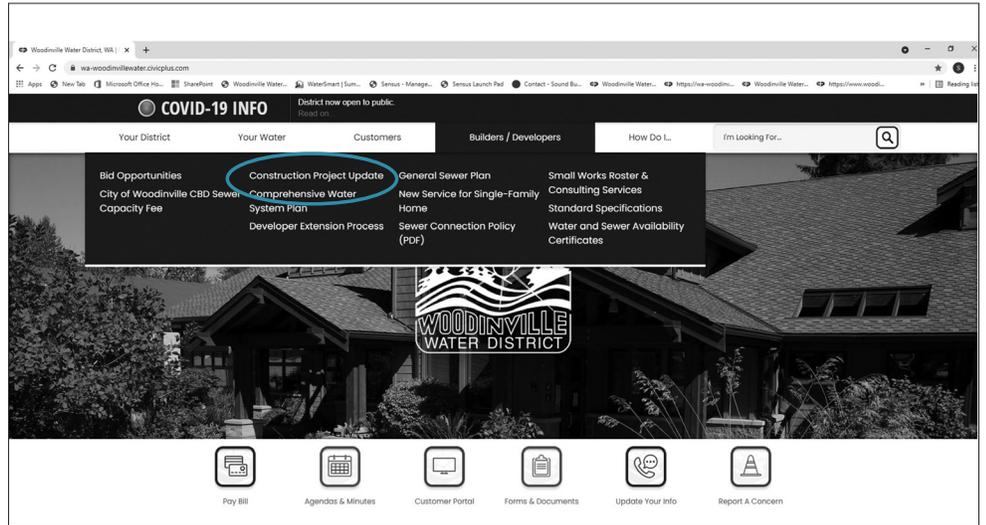
Know what's below. Call before you dig.

Call (811) Before You Dig! callbeforeyoudig.org

Woodinville Water District reminds you to make sure you prevent accidentally hitting an underground utility line when digging. Use the free “Call Before You Dig” hotline at 811 at least two working days before starting a digging project of more than 12 inches deep. The 811 hotline staff will provide you with the locations of lines that serve power, gas, water, sewer and/or telephone utilities that are located along the right-of-way of your property. If you accidentally dig into an underground utility line, not only do you risk injury, you are also responsible for all repairs by state law.

INVESTING In Our Future

Visit www.woodinvillewater.com for the latest Construction Project Updates. If you have any questions for Woodinville Water District regarding any of these projects, please email Project Engineer, Christian Hoffman at choffman@woodinvillewater.com or call him at 425-487-4142.



Application for 2022 Low-Income Discount Rates

The District is accepting applications in June for our 2022-2023 Low-Income Discount Program which provides reduced water and sewer rates for customers meeting specific income guidelines. To qualify, a ratepayer must apply annually, during the month of June, and have a maximum income level no greater than the “Very Low-Income” status by household size for the “King County Seattle/ Bellevue” area as published annually by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The program provides for a discounted base charge for both water and District sewer periodic charges and a discounted water consumption charge for the first 7,480 gallons used each billing cycle.

Customers currently receiving the discount rate will be mailed an application for the 2022-2023 cycle. New applicants for the program can obtain the Low-Income Application Form, including the 2022-2023 income levels, by visiting our webpage at woodinvillewater.com. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact our office at 425-487-4100 and we will be happy to send you one.

Household Size	Maximum Combined Household Income	Household Size	Maximum Combined Household Income
1 person	\$45,300	5 person	\$69,900
2 person	\$51,800	6 person	\$75,100
3 person	\$58,250	7 person	\$80,250
4 person	\$64,700	8 person	\$85,450



Gardening Classes

The Saving Water Partnership sponsors free gardening classes in the spring and fall to help you create and maintain beautiful, healthy landscapes that use water wisely. Please use the contact information provided for each class to register. Early registration is recommended as many classes fill up fast.

Please refer to King County's current masking guidance before your class. If you have additional questions about COVID-19 precautions, inquire when you register for your class.

PROVEN TIPS AND TECHNIQUES FOR FIRST-TIME GARDENERS

Presenter: **Peggy Campbell, horticulturist**

Get started with simple and fun tips for a beautiful, sustainable, and low-maintenance garden. Peggy shares basic techniques that are easy on you and the environment. Discover how to keep weeds out, pests at bay, water use low, and have color year-round.

Tuesday, June 28 • 5:30pm-7pm

To register: call 425-255-9600 or email daniellet@kcwd90.com
Location: King County Water District No. 90
15606 SE 128th St
Renton, WA 98059

FALL AND WINTER CHORES TO MAKE YOUR SPRING GARDENING EASIER

Presenter: **Ladd Smith, co-owner of In Harmony Sustainable Landscapes**

The fall is the best time to prepare for the spring! Learn fall natural yard care techniques that will ease your spring labor, like soil preparation, mulching, and planting new plants.

Wednesday, September 7 • 5pm-6:30pm

To register: call 425-255-9600 or email daniellet@kcwd90.com
Location: King County Water District No. 90
15606 SE 128th St
Renton, WA 98059

Thursday, September 22 • 6:30pm-8pm

To register: call 206-362-8100 or email community@northcitywater.org
Location: North City Water District
1519 NE 177th St
Shoreline, WA 98155

Start New Plants Off Right

Correctly watering new plantings in the first few years can make a big difference in the health of your plants. Deeper, infrequent watering helps plants-- especially perennials, shrubs, and trees-- grow healthy extensive roots systems. Healthy roots are the foundation of beautiful, resilient plants.

When deciding how much and how often to water new plants, you'll want to consider the soil type, plant needs, sun exposure, and watering system of your landscape. Below is some general advice to help your plants get started off right.

YEAR 1

- When planting: Water plants as soon as you get them in the ground. Allow the water to soak in, then water again until the soil is thoroughly moistened.
- Week one: Water plants daily or every other day.
- Week two onward: Water two or three times per week until the fall rains begin. You may need to water more often if it's extremely hot and dry.

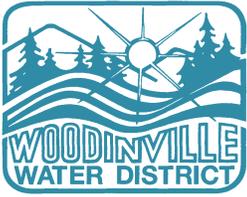
YEARS 2 & 3

- Water deeply once or twice per week according to your soil type. Sandy soils will need more frequent watering while clay soils will need less.

AFTER YEAR 3

- Plants should be established and thrive with less watering. Many plants may need watering only once or twice a month in dry weather and no watering during the rainy season.

Visit savingwater.org to learn more and for other tips, tools, and rebates to help you save water. When we work together to use water wisely, it adds up to make a big difference.



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The Pipeline is designed to keep Woodinville Water District customers up-to-date on water related issues, projects, and conservation education. The District welcomes your feedback and your suggestions for future stories.

Woodinville Water District
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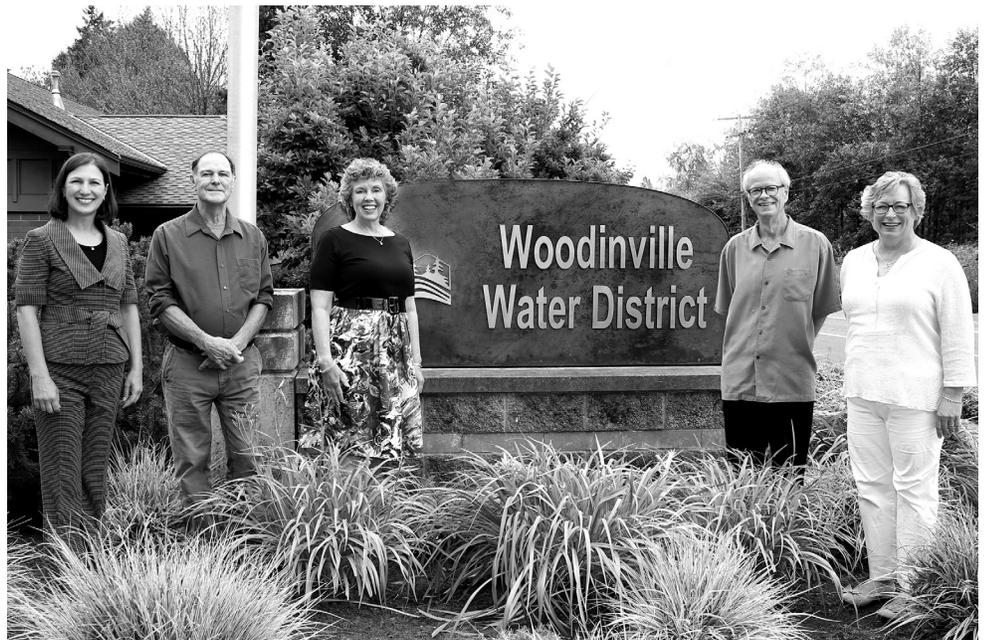
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 Aleksandra Katchakov
 Pamela Maloney
 Tim Schriever
 Karen Steeb

Editor: Sandra Tachibana

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WWD Board of Commissioners



Commissioners (L-R): Aleksandra Kachakov, Tim Schriever, Karen Steeb, Chuck Clarke and Pamela Maloney



Do your part,
 be water smart



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