

# Kitsap Connection

For customers of Kitsap PUD's drinking water utility January/February 2017

## Happy New Year: Reviewing 2016, Previewing 2017

*I hope this newsletter, the first of the new year, finds you well and joyful. Last year, about this time, I welcomed you to 2016 and laid out a rough plan for this newsletter over the year: to look at various efforts underway in Kitsap to infiltrate more water to our aquifers. And then Flint, Michigan had an issue with lead. So we covered that. And then trace amounts of Chromium were detected in much of the nation's water systems. And we reported on that. I reflect on this because it seems an apt microcosm of life at the PUD. Public Utility Districts exist to serve the needs of their communities. We may plan our year, but we often reprioritize when an unexpected "emergency" (oftentimes a failing water system) comes knocking on our door. In this issue we will look back at 2016 and ahead to 2017, cognizant that our backward glasses are usually clearer than the ones facing forward.*

## Looking Back at 2016

**Regional Infrastructure.** In 2012, the Washington State Legislature appropriated \$2.5 Million towards Kitsap's regional drinking water infrastructure. Washington Department of Health helped fund another \$2.1 Million towards the same. 2016 saw the wrap-up of this 4 year plus effort to add regional drinking water infrastructure. Over that time, Kitsap PUD constructed almost six miles of water main, over 500,000 gallons of new storage, two new pump stations and consolidated three stand-alone water systems. These projects improve community utility service and provide increased options for managing Kitsap's water resources. Kitsap PUD thanks the Washington Legislature and Department of Health for their investment in the Kitsap Community.



**Water Resources.** Water Year 2016, which ran from October 2015 through September 2016, saw some of the highest rainfall totals in our 25 years of recording. While all monitoring stations recorded above average totals, many stations saw record totals. Further, many stations recorded their highest ever 24-hour total.

Not to be outdone, Water Year 2017, which runs from October 2016 through September 2017, got off to a very wet start. Many stations saw their wettest October ever. The rain gauge in Holly, for example, recorded 24 inches of rainfall in the month. December, conversely, proved abnormally dry.

Hopefully, this year we can look at some of the efforts to get this water back into our groundwater system.



**Board of Commissioners.** At the November 2016 election, Debra Lester defeated John Armstrong to become KPUD's North Kitsap Commissioner. At the Board's December 13th meeting, Commissioners Berg and Civilla thanked Commissioner Armstrong for his 24 years of service to Kitsap PUD and the Kitsap community. Join me in echoing that and welcoming Commissioner Lester to the District.



## Looking Ahead to 2017



In 2017, Kitsap PUD will begin operating a new membrane-bioreactor (MBR) **wastewater treatment plant** at Port Gamble. The new MBR plant will replace the existing treatment plant which discharges to Hood Canal. The new plant will treat the

wastewater to a drinking water quality and infiltrate it upland via a large drainfield. This will help recharge local aquifers and provide baseflow to local streams. In removing the existing outfall, the project will also help restore 90 acres of shellfish beds.

Last November, the City of Bainbridge Island enacted a **utility tax** to be levied on *“any entity that is owned or managed by a municipal corporation or a for-profit entity, selling, transmitting, or distributing water...”*. This tax will apply to customers of KPUD who receive

water service on Bainbridge. Commencing with the March billing, these customers will see a 6% COBI Utility Tax applied to their water bill. This tax is passed through to COBI. Any questions should be directed to the City of Bainbridge Island at (206) 842-7633.



**In non water-related news...** In 2000, the Washington Legislature granted Public Utility Districts the authority to provide wholesale telecommunications services. This was to encourage broadband deployment throughout the state. Since that time, many have come to believe that the limitation to

wholesale service is impeding access. Senator Christine Rolfes has recently introduced legislation to remove this restriction. More information can be found at: <http://sdc.wastateleg.org/rolfes/2017/01/12/rolfes-bill-goes-the-last-mile-allows-public-internet-retail-option/>

## Water Rates 101

I post a sidebar of our water rates in every newsletter. While I know that information on infrastructure and water resources is appreciated, I understand that water rates are a more immediate concern to many. So, I always post the current rates along with the current events.

Beside knowing WHAT the rates are, let's take a moment and look at WHY the rates are.

Kitsap PUD has a two-component rate structure: a basic service charge and a commodity charge, which is based on usage. This commodity charge is “tiered” so that the cost of water gets higher with higher use. This tiered commodity charge is designed to:

1. **Ensure that reasonable indoor and outdoor use remains affordable for our community.** Tier 1 is structured to allow for

- reasonable indoor usage. Tier 2 is structured to allow for reasonable outdoor usage. These two tiers, with the basic service charge, represent a certainty of revenue on which we budget operations, maintenance and routine capital replacement.
2. **Encourage conservation among higher water users.** There is a significant jump from Tier 2 to Tier 3; an even larger leap from Tier 3 to Tier 4. This, hopefully, encourages people to pay attention to their hose during the summer.
  3. **Collect money for additional infrastructure from those high water users that inordinately drive the need.** While regular capital replacement is funded through the basic service charge and Tiers 1 and 2; infrastructure to add capacity is funded—in large part—by those driving the need: new customers and high water users.

### Kitsap PUD

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### 2017 Water Rates

On January 1, KPUD made a few adjustments to our water rate structure. Adjustments were made to:

**Basic Service Charge:** increased from \$24/month to \$24.25/month.

**Tier 3 Commodity Charge** increased from \$2.35 to \$2.40/100 cubic feet.\*

**Tier 4 Commodity Charge** increased from \$5.25 to \$5.50/100 cubic feet.\*

\*100 cubic feet equals 748 gallons.

**No adjustments were made to our Tiers 1 and 2 Commodity Charges.**

**2017 Rates shown below are for a typical residential service. Remember: KPUD bills on a bi-monthly basis.**

#### Basic Service Charge

\$24.25 (monthly)  
\$48.50 (per 2-month billing)

#### Commodity Charge

**Tier 1** (0-1,400 cubic feet) \$1.15 per 100 cubic feet  
**Tier 2** (1,401—2,400 cubic feet) \$1.55 per 100 cubic feet  
**Tier 3** (2,401—4,000 cubic feet) \$2.40 per 100 cubic feet  
**Tier 4** (over 4,000 cubic feet) \$5.50 per 100 cubic feet