

# Kitsap Connection

For customers of Kitsap PUD's drinking water utility December 2015/January 2016



## 2015: The Year in Review

As you can see in the masthead above, this newsletter straddles the turning of the year from 2015 to 2016. We hope it finds you and yours well and happy. For this issue, we thought we would look back on some of the milestones of 2015 and look ahead to some things we anticipate for 2016. As always (it seems), it was an eventful year at Kitsap PUD. Let's review:



**Drought.** While the rest of the state suffered through what was called a “snow drought”, Kitsap—for the most part—remained business as usual. An unusually warm winter, aided in part by a “blob” of warm water offshore, left little snowpack in the mountains. As Kitsap is one of three counties that do not rely on snowpack, we avoided the stress that many communities felt. Kitsap, in fact, received a usual amount of precipitation and, therefore, recharge to our groundwater supplies.

**Regional Infrastructure.** With financial assistance from the Washington Legislature and Washington Department of Health, Kitsap PUD completed significant portions of our Regional Drinking Water Infrastructure project. In 2015, we installed almost 5 miles of water main. This water main (and all of the Regional Infrastructure) is meant to provide more resilient utility service to Kitsap communities AND provide better water resource management options affecting Kitsap's natural environment.



**Excellent!** On May 7th, in celebration of National Drinking Water Week, Washington State Department of Health presented Kitsap PUD with its “Commitment to Excellence” award. This award recognizes KPUD's long-standing commitment to provide safe, sustainable, drinking water to Kitsap communities. Clark Halvorson, Director of the Office of Drinking Water (left) presented the award to KPUD's General Manager, Bob Hunter (on right) at KPUD's office in Poulsbo.

**South Bainbridge, Island Utility Water Systems.** On July 1st, Kitsap PUD assumed ownership and operation of the South Bainbridge and Island Utility water systems, both located on Bainbridge Island. The systems' combined 1,300+ connections grew the District's water utility by 10%. The weekend that the District assumed operation (Fourth of July!) saw peak water demand AND mechanical failure of a major source well and transfer station. It was a hectic honeymoon! We are still working out bugs associated with the transfer and thank the citizens of those communities for their ongoing assistance and patience.



**Wastewater Authority.** On November 3rd, Kitsap citizens voted to give Kitsap PUD the authority to own and operate wastewater treatment facilities. The proposal was approved by over 75% of the voters. It has been pointed out that this level of support is indicative of the goodwill shared between Kitsap PUD and the Kitsap community. We hope, and endeavor to ensure, that is so. We are honored by your support and proud to be a serving member of the Kitsap community. We thank you, as always.

**And now... on to 2016.**



# Everyone Has a Plan...

In KPUD's last comprehensive water system plan, there is a quote that precedes the capital improvement section. It is by, of all people, Mike Tyson, the boxer. A reporter had asked, "I hear your opponent has a clever plan for defeating your left hook. How do you respond?" Mike replied, "Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth." Though it might sound a bit crass, this quote captures the nature of planning at Kitsap PUD. Though we may "plan" our upcoming year, our ultimate role is to be responsive to community needs and desires. We are called to assist failing water systems, to relocate water mains in conjunction with fish-passage improvements, to—as witnessed—step up to provide wastewater management services. These things can come out of the blue and reprioritize our "to do" list. That being said, here are some of the major things we will be working on in 2016:

**Regional Infrastructure.** We will continue work on the Regional Drinking Water Infrastructure with two projects (definitely) slated for construction. These are the construction of two transfer stations and the outfitting of a new source well.

**DOH Pilot Project.** This year, Kitsap PUD was approached by Washington Department of Health regarding a pilot project to help small water systems build technical, managerial and technical capacities. The EPA has identified small water systems as facing unique challenges moving forward. As Kitsap has hundreds of these small systems, we feel this is an important project for our community.

**Wastewater.** The vote is over, construction is underway. In 2016, KPUD will begin operating a wastewater utility.

## Kitsap PUD

1431 Finn Hill Road  
PO Box 1989  
Poulsbo, WA 98370  
360-779-7656  
[www.kpud.org](http://www.kpud.org)

## 2016 water rates

Kitsap PUD has a "tiered" rate structure. In this, the cost of water goes up with usage. A Basic Service Charge, together with Tiers 1 and 2 are meant to provide surety to water system operations while ensuring reasonable water usage remains affordable to Kitsap's households. Tiers 3 and 4 are structured to encourage conservation and recoup additional capital improvement funds from high-water users.

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

### Basic Service Charge

\$24.00 (monthly)  
\$48.00 (per 2-month billing)

### Commodity Charge

**Tier 1** (0-1,400 cubic feet)  
\$01.15 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)  
\$2.35 per 100 cubic feet

**Tier 4** (over 4,000 cubic feet)  
\$5.25 per 100 cubic feet

\*100 cubic feet of water is equal to 748 gallons.

# Let's Get Started.

You will recall that a prime motivator for our entry into wastewater operations was the emerging technologies that allow better recharge of our aquifers. My plan for this newsletter in 2016, is to highlight some of the measures being taken locally to ensure our groundwater supplies are sustainably recharged. Because I received positive feedback on the last word puzzle, let's start our exploration into recharge with another puzzle featuring words we will see over the coming year.

E M S D J F J G J X C E Y V N  
J N R P N B F R Q O S T V Q C  
Y I H J O M Y O K N P X T G J  
J M I N I W N U N I S W R O D  
X P R O T I W N G U R K E E P  
C E E I N J O D E V R H A W S  
M R T T E J L W A G N X T A D  
Q V A A T W F A Q O E O M S E  
I I W R E C E T U T L S E T M  
U O M T R O S E I V A T N E I  
N U R L A C A R F F W O T W A  
X S O I E B B A E F S R M A L  
T M T F S E U I R M O A Y T C  
S X S N P I F U Y H I G Q E E  
M X M I K U P A E E B E A R R

AQUIFER  
BASEFLOW  
BIOSWALE  
GROUNDWATER  
IMPERVIOUS  
INFILTRATION  
RECLAIMED  
RETENTION  
RUNOFF  
STORAGE  
STORMWATER  
TREATMENT  
WASTEWATER