

# Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District

## Spring News & 2019 Water Quality Report



### Washington Supreme Court rules that King County can charge “rent” to utilities

The **Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District** was disappointed that our court fight to prevent King County from charging “rent” for use of county road rights of way for water and sewer pipelines and other utilities was unsuccessful, and will likely lead to increased utility rates.

The District would be required to pay approximately \$69,595 per year in sewer rent for the use of County rights-of-way and \$2,002 in water rent. The District has no water facilities in King County rights-of-way and doesn’t believe the water rent applies. **No matter the final amount, it will impact customers in the form of increased utility rates.** The County’s compensation notice would increase sewer rates by an estimated \$2.40 per billing cycle. However, the specific impact on your sewer rates is not known at this time as the amount of rent is undetermined and will be subject to future legal proceedings and/or negotiations. It is also not currently known if rent will be applied retroactively — which would require that rates be raised even higher.

### What you can do

Councilmembers with constituents in unincorporated areas may be contacted via email addresses or phone numbers listed below.

District 1	<b>rod.dembowski@kingcountry.gov</b> (206) 477-1001
District 3	<b>kathy.lambert@kingcounty.gov</b> (206) 477-1003
District 4	<b>jeanne.kohl-welles@kingcounty.gov</b> (206) 477-1004
District 5	<b>dave.upthegrove@kingcounty.gov</b> (206) 477-1005
District 7	<b>peter.vonreichbauer@kingcounty.gov</b> (206) 477-1007
District 8	<b>joe.mcdermott@kingcounty.gov</b> (206) 477-1008
District 9	<b>reagan.dunn@kingcounty.gov</b> (206) 477-1009



### Board of Commissioners

Wayne DeMeester  
*President*

Paul Sentena  
*Secretary*

Paul Robinett

### To Our Customers

We hope you are staying safe during this public health crisis.

**Your drinking water is safe** and our system will continue to operate without interruption.

We have closed the office to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Payments may be mailed, placed in drop boxes or paid online.

Make appointments to see staff by calling (425) 868-1144.

**Please do not flush disinfectant wipes as they can cause pipes to clog and break pumps.**



# Do Your Part to Protect our Water Supply



Irrigation systems can threaten our water supply if not properly installed and monitored. **State law requires that sprinklers include a backflow prevention device that is tested every year.** Certification of your annual test must be sent to the District by May 31, 2020.

If your irrigation system lacks a backflow preventer or if the device has not been annually tested, please contact the District immediately at (425) 868-1144.

## What is Backflow and What is a Cross Connection?

Backflow occurs when water is pulled from outside your irrigation system into the system and can result in water contamination. Backflow may occur due to either “backsiphonage” or “backpressure.”

A cross connection is any actual or potential link between a drinking water line and any pipe, vessel, or machine containing a non-potable fluid, solid or gas, allowing possible entry to the water system by backflow. This would include, but is not limited to: sewers, drains, conduits, pools, plumbing fixtures, storage reservoirs or any other device. Any cross connection is a potential source of water contamination and must have backflow prevention. Bypasses such as jumper connections, removable sections, swivel or changeover devices are considered to be a cross connection.

## Cross Connection Requirements Protect our Water Supply

State Law requires that all commercial and residential irrigation systems have backflow protection. A plumbing permit is also required to install an irrigation system. Without proper backflow protection, an irrigation system

could contaminate our drinking water and endanger the health of your family, neighbors, and our community.

The approved backflow assemblies listed below are required, and must be tested by a certified tester when installed and re-certified every year.

- Pressure Vacuum Breaker Assemblies (PVBA)
- Double Check Valve Assemblies (DCVA)
- Reduced Pressure Backflow Assemblies (RPBA)

All in-ground irrigation systems, fire sprinkler systems or wells must have a backflow prevention device that is inspected yearly by a certified tester.



# Water Conservation

In 2003, the Legislature passed the Municipal Water Supply Efficiency Requirements Act. The Water Efficiency Rule requires all water suppliers to set efficiency goals and provide annual performance reports.

The District has adopted the following water use efficiency goals:

- Achieve a reduction in water use per ERU of 5% by the year 2021, with 2006 as the base year.
- Increase awareness among all water users of the value and importance of conserving water and of the methods available.

These goals were reaffirmed by NESSWD Commissioners in June 2016. **The average water use from 2007 through 2019 was 20.11% lower than in 2006.**

**Through your support of our conservation efforts we’ve cut water use by over 20% since 2006.**

The District continues to fund education programs, offer rebates for water efficient washing machines, provide water conservation kits and focus on a low leakage rate throughout our distribution system.



# 2019 Water Quality Report

## Health Information

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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants (coliforms), such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics which are by products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.



# 2019 SOURCE WATER TESTING RESULTS

Detected	Units	MCL	MCLG	Average	Range	Typical Sources	Clean Water
Radium 228	pCi/L	5	N/A	0.28	0.156 to 0.417	Erosion of natural deposits.	YES
Gross Alpha	pCi/L	15	N/A	0.163	0.119 to 0.213	Erosion of natural deposits	YES
Arsenic	ppb	10	0	5.20	3.20 to 6.40	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes. See notes for more information.	YES
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	1.00	ND to 1.00	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; Erosion of natural deposits.	YES
Asbestos	mfl	7	7	0.118	N/A	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; Erosion of natural deposits.	YES
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s)	ppb	60	N/A	2.10	N/A	By-products of drinking water disinfection. While the District does not disinfect its water supply, a very small amount of chlorine enters the system from Sammamish Plateau Water at the very south end of the District.	YES

NOTES AND DEFINITIONS

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

AL = Action Level      ND = None detected      mfl = million fibers per liter      ppb = parts per billion

N/A = Not applicable      pCi/l = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)      ppm = parts per million

**Arsenic:** While our drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

which must provide the same protection for public health.

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.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is 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 at (800) 426-4791.

For more information about any item in this report, please contact Laura Keough at (425) 868-1144.

# NESSWD Service Area

The District is bordered by Lake Sammamish on the west, the Redmond-Fall City Road on the north and at about 239<sup>th</sup> on the east. Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District (NESSWD) overlaps with Sammamish Plateau Water (SPW) on its southern border.

Water provided by NESSWD has won several awards for purity and taste.

Our protected source produces high-quality water direct from your tap.

The southern water boundary for NESSWD is approximately at NE 20<sup>th</sup> while its southern sewer boundary is from NE 9<sup>th</sup> to NE 16<sup>th</sup>. Customers in this overlapping area receive a sewer bill from NESSWD and a water bill from SPW. This overlap exists since neither District had both water and sewer service available at the time of development. As a result, for customers

to have both water and sewer connections, each District provided one of the utilities. We mail you this update even if you receive your water from SPW.

NESSWD's consumers are 99% residential with no commercial accounts except for a few condominium complexes, one school, Sahalee Country Club and the Sahalee Maintenance Association. We have no industrial customers.



# Our Sources & Storage

In 2019, NESSWD produced approximately 234 million gallons of water. The District is supplied entirely by ground water pumped from five wells. There are three wells in the Evans Creek Valley and two on the Plateau. These wells serve approximately 3,300 connections or about 10,560 people.

**The District adds no chemicals to our water supply for disinfection or other purposes.** The District does operate a filtration plant to remove hydrogen sulfide and arsenic.

The District adopted a wellhead protection plan in 1995 and updated the plan in 2012. The plan defined wellhead protection areas (WHPA) for each well or well field. Contaminant inventory and risk assessments were conducted for each WHPA. The risk assessment determined that all identified potential contaminant sources were of low risk to the District's wells.

The Washington State Department of Health has assessed a low contaminant susceptibility rating to wells 3 and 4. The well field was assigned a moderate susceptibility rating. The District continues to monitor for new risks that may arise.

NESSWD maintains three storage tanks — two half-million gallon underground reservoirs and a three million gallon tank shared with SPW. Both Districts pump water into that tank and withdraw the water as needed. As a result, customers in Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District also receive water from SPW sources.

You may contact Sammamish Plateau Water for information on their water sources at (425) 392-6256, or go to the their website at [www.spwater.org](http://www.spwater.org).

Your water meets, or exceeds, every state and federal standard.



# Testing to Protect Your Family

No homes tested in the District have ever exceeded the action levels for lead and copper.

In Washington State, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used in household plumbing. The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more dissolved metals, such as lead, it may contain. Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children.

You can reduce your potential exposure to lead. For any drinking water tap that has not been used for 6 hours or more, flush water through the tap until the water is noticeably colder before using for drinking or cooking. You can use the flushed water for watering plants, washing dishes, or general cleaning. Only use water from the cold water tap for drinking, cooking and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested at a laboratory. The Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) is responsible for certifying labs in Washington.

A list of certified labs can be found at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/apps/eap/acclabs/labquery.asp>. Information on lead is available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or online at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).



## Residential Lead & Copper Test Results

2018 Testing	90th Percentile	MCL	MCLG	Number of Homes Exceeding Action Level	Range	Clean Water
Lead (ppb)	0.0017	AL = 15	0	0	ND to 0.0019	YES
Copper (ppm)	0.22	AL = 1.3	1.3	0	ND to 0.32	YES

# Update on Current District Projects

## Sewer Pipe Lining

The District is lining 6100 feet of 44-year old concrete pipe to extend its useful life. We have contracted for Phase I of this project which will line 2,754 linear feet. Work should begin in April. Phase II is planned for spring 2021.

## SCADA Replacement/Shake Alert

The contract for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) updates at the District wells is in process. The remote terminal units (RTUs) will communicate with the Master Control Center to run our system. In conjunction with the SCADA Replacement, we will be installing the Shake Alert early earthquake warning system at each well.

## Sewer and Water Comprehensive Plans

We are in the process of updating both of our comprehensive plans. The sewer plan is approved by the Department of Ecology

Ongoing system maintenance ensures reliability and lowers running costs which saves money and cuts water leakage.

and the water plan is approved by the Department of Health.

## Manhole Lining

The District awarded a contract in February to line deteriorating manholes. This work will likely be performed in April or May.

## SR202 Sewer Force-Main Relocation

The state is replacing a culvert on SR202 which will require the District to relocate

its sewer force-main. The District will install a temporary bypass prior to WSDOT's culvert work. The existing force-main will then be removed and a new force-main installed when the culvert work is complete.



## Emergency Chlorination System

The District does not chlorinate its water. If an E.coli event were to occur such as the one that happened on Mercer Island or Sallal, the District may need to inject chlorine into the water to make it drinkable. This system would only be used in the event of an emergency situation. The project is under design.

## Well 2R

The pump is being replaced at Well 2R. The well has been rehabilitated and videoed. The pump is on order and should be installed in the next month.







**Northeast Sammamish  
Sewer and Water District**  
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Sammamish, Washington 98074

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## Public Meetings

The Board of Commissioners meet on the first and third Wednesday at 7:30 AM. Board meetings are currently being held via Zoom. Log-in information is posted on the District's website at **[NESSWD.org](https://NESSWD.org)**.

## More Information

on source water assessments is available from the Washington State Department of Health website at: **<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/swap/>**

## Customer Service

Contact the District at (425) 868-1144 during normal business hours, or 24-hours per day in an emergency.

## Pay Online

You can pay your bill at **[NESSWD.org](https://NESSWD.org)** anytime day or night. Just visit our website to sign-up.



## Low Income Senior Discount

A discount program is available for customers who are at least 62 years of age with a limited family income. You qualify if you meet these criteria.

Family Size	Household Income That Does Not Exceed
1	\$ 41,800
2	\$ 47,800
3	\$ 53,750
4	\$ 59,700

For more information, or to apply, visit our website at **[NESSWD.org](https://NESSWD.org)** or contact Customer Service at (425) 868-1144.

***We're here to serve you!***