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SKY LINES

September 2026

WATER SUPPLY UPDATE



We've got good news and bad news. As reported in previous issues, the Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) declared a statewide drought emergency on April 8th.

The bad news: The drought declared in April is still in effect and shows no signs of ending any time soon. It's still too warm and this increases water demand for agriculture, creates poor conditions for fish, and leads to increased evaporation from rivers, lakes and reservoirs.

The good news: It's no longer the third warmest water year on record. Averaged statewide, precipitation for the water year so far was a little bit above normal.

While some parts of the state are experiencing drought conditions, the areas served by Seattle, Tacoma, and Everett water utilities do not anticipate any impacts to their customers, which includes the District.

Water use generally doubles during the summer due to outdoor use and we appreciate everyone's efforts to use water wisely!

2027 King County Sewer Rate

District customers are billed every other month for water and/or sewer service. If you receive sewer service from the District, a portion of your bill is collected by the District and passed through to King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) for wastewater treatment. For 2027, King County's monthly rate is increasing 12.75%, from \$62.66 to \$70.65—about \$8 per month for a single-family residential household.



The sewer rate covers costs for King County staff to maintain and operate treatment plants that collect and clean wastewater, which includes water from toilets, sinks, and showers. It also funds capital projects to meet environmental regulations, upgrade aging infrastructure, and increase capacity. Those capital projects are driving much of the increase.

King County needs to invest \$14 billion in capital projects over the next decade, with half - \$7 billion - going toward meeting regulatory requirements from the state and federal government. A large portion of those projects are centered around reducing overflows from combined sewer systems in Seattle. King County is required to complete those projects by 2037. Meanwhile, much of the aging infrastructure built in the 1960s is reaching the end of its useful service life and must be replaced. Additionally, people are moving to the region and the system needs more capacity to treat their wastewater. All of these costs are stacking up at once. Right now, WTD's financial forecast shows rates will continue to increase significantly over the next few years to cover those costs.

Investing in the wastewater system means that it will continue to work smoothly for years to come, protecting water quality and the environment. Upgrades to infrastructure and changes or additions to the system take years to plan, design and build. That means King County WTD must balance short-term costs with long-term planning for future generations.

King County and partners are taking action to find ways to bend the curve of the projected rate path and reduce impacts on ratepaying households. You can learn more about these issues and find updates as this work develops.



King County South Treatment Plant

LEARN MORE



kingcounty.gov/wtd/invest-clean-water

Safety Starts at Home

King County climate, forestry, and emergency experts worked with partners to develop a new toolkit to help residents better prepare their homes and communities for increased wildfire risks. The new Wildfire Ready Toolkit is tailored to the specific conditions King County communities face, featuring customized actions to help reduce risk and build resilience.

"Everyone wants to make their neighborhood more resilient to climate impacts and prepare for a potential evacuation, but it's not always clear where to begin," said Mo McBroom, Interim Director of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks. "That's why the customized toolkit our staff developed with partners is such a valuable resource, providing clear instructions for preparing our communities for the increasing threat of wildfire in King County." **Download the free Toolkit at [King County Wildfire Ready Toolkit](#).**



Toolkit

Scan the QR code to explore the Washington Department of Natural Resources' [wildland-urban interface \(WUI\) map](#).



Story Map

WHCA News and Updates

- **Thanks for joining us at Skyway Outdoor Cinema!** You helped us make so many amazing memories this summer.
- **Upcoming events:** In October, join us for our quarterly community meeting (10/20) and Voter Town Hall (date TBA). Follow our social media, emails, or website for details as they're announced.
- **Support community events and advocacy:** Join us to make an impact! Volunteers & donors power this work: MyWestHill.org/join



Our website, socials, & newsletter are great ways to stay in the loop!

MyWestHill.org/connect



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A MESSAGE FROM KING COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 20

For more than 80 years, King County Fire District No. 20 has been part of the West Hill community, responding when you call, helping our neighbors during emergencies, and working every day to keep our community safe.

This November, our community will consider a proposed bond measure to address some of the District's long-term facility and equipment needs. The proposed projects include modernizing Fire Station 22, improving storage and site infrastructure, and replacing an aging reserve fire engine.

We want our neighbors to have clear information about what is being proposed, why these projects are being considered, and what the estimated cost could be for local property owners. Here's a quick overview, along with ways to learn more.

BOND PROJECTS



Modernize Fire Station 22

Improve firefighter living and working areas and replace aging building systems.



Build New Storage Facilities

Securely store reserve emergency apparatus and equipment.



Improve Site Security

Add backup generator support and protect emergency resources.



Replace Reserve Fire Engine

Improve reliability and emergency readiness.

SCAN FOR DETAILS



LEARN MORE

www.king20fire.org/capital-projects-bond

206-772-1430 | 12424 76th Ave. S. Seattle, WA 98178

KING COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 20 STATION NO. 22



PROPOSITION NO. 1

NOVEMBER 3, 2026

ESTIMATED HOMEOWNER COST

\$0.28 per \$1,000 of assessed value

Home Value	Monthly	Yearly
\$500,000	\$11.67	\$140
\$700,000	\$16.33	\$196
\$800,000	\$18.67	\$224

ASSESSED VALUE ÷ 1,000 × ESTIMATED BOND RATE = ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST