



## HIGHLINE WATER DISTRICT

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### **NOTICE OF UTILITY RATE INCREASE DUE TO KING COUNTY RIGHT-OF-WAY RENTAL FEE/TAX**

On November 7, 2016, the King County Council passed Ordinance No. 18403 which will result in significant increases to your utility rates. The Ordinance requires utilities, consisting of electric, gas, water, and sewer, to pay rent (a tax) to the County for the right to use County right-of-way (streets and roads). More information, including the draft rule to implement the rental fee/tax, and a comment form can be found at the following website: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/facilities-management/real-estate-services/public-rule-proposal.aspx>.

Highline Water District, providing water services in your area, will be commenting to King County on this regressive fee/tax and we encourage you to contact King County as well. Comments and concerns are due to King County no later than **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 7, 2017**.

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

- 1. How Does the County rental fee/tax impact you?**  
Because Highline Water District owns and operates water within King County right-of-way, the District will be subject to this new rental fee/tax. The District's current water rates do not include this additional fee/tax which must be passed on to the end-user. For example, if you are a District water customer, according to the County's calculations, your monthly utility bills will increase by at least \$5 per month. Further, you should expect similar increases in your sewer, gas and electricity bills.
- 2. Where will the money raised by this new rental fee/tax go?**  
The District understands the rental fees/taxes will be deposited into the County's General Fund and may be used for purposes other than road maintenance such as funding criminal justice programs.
- 3. When will this new rental fee/tax take effect?**  
The District understands this new fee will become effective in early 2018, when the County rule implementing the rental fee/tax is finalized.
- 4. What can you do?**  
We strongly encourage you to comment on the draft rule at the above website. Again, **comments are due no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 7, 2017**. Written comments may also be sent to: Terri Hansen, Facilities Management Division, 500 Fourth Ave. Suite 800, Seattle, WA 98104.

The District also recommends contacting members of the King County Council to share your thoughts about this new fee/tax. Connect with King County Councilmember Dave Uptegrove via email at <mailto:dave.uptegrove@kingcounty.gov>.

**Thank you for your help to keep your water rates as low as possible!**

Highline Water District  
Phone: (206) 824-0375 – <http://www.highlinewater.org>