

**HIGHLINE WATER DISTRICT
King County, Washington**

RESOLUTION 23-7-5A

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE HEAT-RELATED RECONNECTION POLICY

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature passed ESHB 1329 preventing utility shutoffs during extreme heat-related events; and,

WHEREAS, the new legislation modifies RCW 57.08.081, and prohibits a water district from involuntary terminating water service to a residential user on any day for which the National Weather Service (NWS) has issued or announced that it intends to issue a heat-related alert; and,

WHEREAS, a residential user at whose dwelling water service has been disconnected for lack of payment may request the District to reconnect service on any day for which the NWS has issued or has announced that it intends to issue a heat-related alert for the area in which the residential user's address is located; and,

WHEREAS, the new policy must be incorporated into Highline Water District Code (HWDC).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Board of Commissioners approves the Heat Related Reconnection policy (attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A**) and authorizes the General Manager or designee to modify the applicable Section(s) of HWDC to incorporate the policy.
2. The General Manager or Legal Counsel is authorized to make changes or updates to the policy as necessary to maintain compliance with RCW 57.08.081.
3. The General Manager or designee is authorized to suspend disconnections to avoid termination of residential water service during certain periods of the year when heat advisories are most likely to occur.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of Highline Water District, King County, Washington, at an open public meeting held on this **5th** day of **July 2023**.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DocuSigned by:

Daniel Johnson

Daniel Johnson, President

DocuSigned by:

Kathleen Quong-Vermeire

Kathleen Quong-Vermeire, Secretary

DocuSigned by:

Polly Daigle

Polly Daigle, Commissioner

DocuSigned by:

Todd Fultz

Todd Fultz, Commissioner

DocuSigned by:

Vince Koester

Vince Koester, Commissioner

**HEAT-RELATED RECONNECTIONS****11.04.140**

POLICY: It is the policy of the District to allow residential users who are disconnected due to a lack of payment to be temporarily reconnected upon request during heat-related events in accordance with RCW 57.08.081.

1. The District will not effect, due to a lack of payment, an involuntary termination of water service to a residential user, including tenants of metered apartment buildings and residents of mobile homes, on any day for which the National Weather Service (NWS) has issued or announced that it intends to issue a heat-related alert, such as an excessive heat warning, a heat advisory, an excessive heat watch, or similar alert for the area in which the residential user's address is located.
2. A residential user at whose dwelling water service has been disconnected for lack of payment may request the District to reconnect service on any day for which the NWS has issued or has announced that it intends to issue a heat-related alert for the area in which the residential user's address is located.
3. The District shall inform customers in the disconnection notice of the ability to seek reconnection in the event of a heat-related alert and provide clear and specific information to make the request and how to contact the District.
4. Upon receipt of a request to reconnect, the District shall promptly make a reasonable attempt to reconnect service to the dwelling.
5. The District will not require payment by the residential user to have service temporarily restored during the heat-related event.
6. Upon expiration or termination of the heat-related alert by the NWS, if the customer's account continues to remain delinquent, service shall be interrupted with no further notice to the customer. The District will not impose an additional disconnection fee.
7. The General Manager or designee is authorized to suspend disconnections to avoid termination of residential water service during certain periods of the year when heat advisories are most likely to occur.
8. On an annual basis, the District shall submit a report to the Department of Commerce that includes the total number of disconnections and other information as requested by the department that occurred on each day for which the NWS issued or announced that it intended to issue a heat-related alert.
9. This policy does not modify other provisions of District Code for periods unrelated to heat-related events.

Agenda Item No.: 5.1

Agenda Date: 07/05/23

Reviewed By: 

Subject: Resolution approving the Heat-Related Reconnection Policy.

CATEGORY		FINANCIAL			
<i>Executive</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Expenditures?</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Administrative</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Budgeted?</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Engineering/Operations</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Not-to Exceed</i>			
		<i>Amount: \$ _____</i>			

Attachments:

1. Resolution 23-7-5A
2. Attachment #1 – Heat-Related Reconnection Policy

Comments:

The Washington State Legislature passed ESHB 1329 preventing utility shutoffs during extreme heat-related events. The new legislation modifies RCW 57.08.081, and prohibits a water district from involuntary terminating water service to a residential user on any day for which the National Weather Service (NWS) has issued or announced that it intends to issue a heat-related alert.

A residential user at whose dwelling water service has been disconnected for lack of payment may request the District to reconnect service on any day for which the NWS has issued or has announced that it intends to issue a heat-related alert for the area in which the residential user's address is located. The new policy must be incorporated into Highline Water District Code (HWDC).

Staff recommends approval of this resolution.