



# 2019 Rate Notification

## NO INCREASES TO WATER OR SEWER RATES

March 2019

Dear Ratepayers:

Your Board of Commissioners is pleased to announce **no water or sewer rate increases for 2019**. The unanimous decision was reached after the District held two public hearings, on February 25, and March 4, 2019. The 2019 Rate Resolution will go into effect on March 15, 2019.

### Balancing rising costs and service quality investments

When determining rates, the District carefully analyzes numerous cost factors associated with providing your water and sewer services. Like any business, the District continually faces rising operating costs. These include higher wholesale water and wastewater treatment rates—in 2019, **Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) raised NUD's wholesale water rates by 0.7%, and King County raised sewer treatment costs by 2.5%**. Costs related to personnel, security and technology, power, communications, construction, and local municipal fees have also increased.

At the same time, the District continually invests to improve the reliability and quality of services. These investments include rehabilitating, replacing, and expanding facilities and pipelines; updating IT security systems to protect your information; and adopting new technology to improve efficiency and enhance customer experience.

### Efficient operating practices and financial stewardship help keep costs low

**How is the District able to keep rates steady and service quality high without passing on cost increases, as many agencies do?** One way is by continually striving to keep internal costs down. For utilities, one measure of operational efficiency is the staff-to-service connection ratio. Compared to other agencies our size, NUD maintains a relatively small staff.

Secondly, the District follows best management practices and exercises sound fiscal management principals. Many other water and sewer utilities can't afford to properly maintain their infrastructure, requiring funding from loans and bond issuances and significant increases in rates and fees. NUD is not in this position. We have been able to fund the cost of infrastructure through our allocated reserves.

As stewards of ratepayer dollars, the District will work hard to keep your rates as affordable as possible, while diligently maintaining the infrastructure, in order to provide the level of service you expect and deserve.

## 2019 BIMONTHLY SINGLE-FAMILY WATER AND SEWER RATES

### WATER SERVICE

Bimonthly Base Charge	\$30.20
Usage Charge per 100 Cubic Foot (CCF) (NUD billing units)	
0 through 10 CCFs	\$3.45
11 through 20 CCFs	\$4.45
21 CCFs and above	\$5.45
Bill for Bimonthly Average Use of 13 CCFs	\$78.05
<b>Bill after 5% Early Payment Discount</b>	<b>\$74.15</b>

### SEWER SERVICE

Bimonthly Base Charge	\$118.59
Usage Charge per CCF*	\$4.00
Typical Bimonthly Bill	\$118.59
<b>Bill after 5% Early Payment Discount</b>	<b>\$112.66</b>

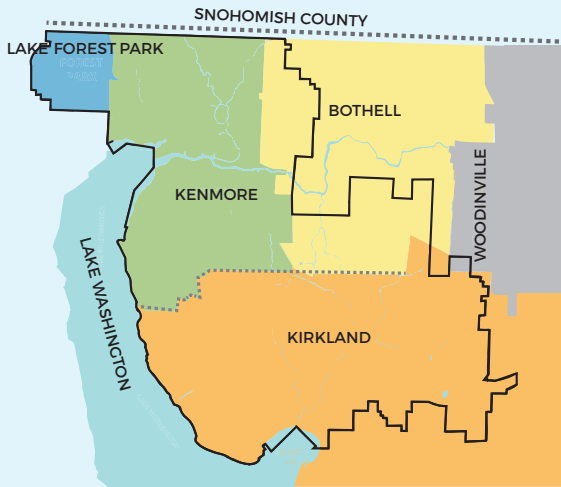
*\*The typical single-family home uses 10 CCFs in the winter. Sewer usage charge is assessed based on bimonthly winter consumption in excess of 15 CCFs. For 2018, less than 2% of total sewer usage was above this threshold.*

## How NUD's rates compare with local neighboring utilities

A meaningful comparison of rates can be difficult, since different agencies have significant cost impacts associated with wholesale services. Some agencies have their own water and wastewater treatment plants, compared to NUD, who uses regional providers SPU for water and King County for wastewater.

The table below compares water and sewer rates for NUD, Woodinville Water District and the cities of Seattle, Bothell and Kirkland. Each of these agencies purchase their water from SPU, and pay King County to treat their sewage. The information for NUD reflects our 5% early payment discount, that is used by over 85% of NUD ratepayers. The District is the only provider that offers this discount.

### NUD SERVICE AREA MAP



PROVIDER - 2019 RATES <sup>1</sup>	WATER	SEWER	TOTAL
<b>NUD 2019</b> (including 5% discount)	<b>\$74.15</b>	<b>\$112.66</b>	<b>\$186.81</b>
<b>Bothell (Inside City)</b>	\$69.11	\$160.60	\$229.71
<b>Woodinville (Winter)</b>	\$99.57	\$144.96	\$244.53
<b>City of Kirkland Utilities*</b>	\$87.21	\$158.00	\$245.21
<b>Woodinville (Summer)</b>	\$113.43	\$144.96	\$258.39
<b>Bothell (Outside City)</b>	\$86.39	\$200.75	\$287.14
<b>Seattle (Winter)</b>	\$102.81	\$188.24	\$291.05
<b>Seattle (Summer)</b>	\$108.47	\$188.24	\$296.71

\*The City of Kirkland provides drinking water purchased from SPU through Cascade Water Alliance, an association of regional water districts and cities.

<sup>1</sup>The table above does not include franchise fees and utility taxes charged by, and paid to, the respective cities. If you are a City of Kirkland resident, the City's franchise fee is added as a multiplier to your water and sewer service rates. Franchise fees for residents of Bothell, Kenmore, and Lake Forest Park are listed as a separate line item on water and sewer bills. The most current franchise fee information is found at [www.nud.net/rates](http://www.nud.net/rates).

## Working to represent your needs

As your elected Board of Commissioners, we take great pride in representing you, as owners of the utility. We are focused on being an effective governing body that establishes policies to ensure high quality drinking water and sewer services are provided in an affordable, sustainable manner.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss policy or the future direction of the District with you. Please contact any of us by phone or email. You can find our contact information on NUD's website at [www.nud.net/board](http://www.nud.net/board).

Sincerely,

The Northshore Utility District Board of Commissioners

Don Ellis, Board President

Tom Mortimer, Board Secretary

Matt Breyse, Commissioner

Bruce Gardiner, Commissioner

Trudy Rolla, Commissioner