



1037 NW Grebe Street
 Seal Rock, Oregon 97376
 Phone: 541.563.3529 – Fax: 541.563.4246
www.srwd.org



Seal Rock Water District

General Manager's Report:
 Board Meeting – May 9, 2024

This report serves as an executive summary for the Board meeting agenda. It provides recommendations for actions to be taken if necessary. Detailed information, staff reports, and supporting materials can be found in the full agenda packet.

PHASE-IV BEAVER CREEK SOURCE WATER PROJECT:

Water treatment plant operators continue implementing remote operation of the water treatment plant. Implementation of remote operation allows operators to monitor functions at the water treatment plant through a human machine interface (HMI) program. While this phase in the process is relatively new for the district, it is standard throughout the industry, and while recently implemented we continue recognizing promising results.

Operators are able to allow the WTP to operate after hours with successful starts and stops, to include automated routine maintenance cleans during production. The result to the district is less overall cost to produce water and an increased overall level of stored water in the drinking water system. Operators continue to monitor conditions as they work collaboratively with engineers and WesTech technicians to build greater optimization as continued monitoring is performed.

PROPOSED RATE ADJUSTMENT FOR THE 2024/2025 BUDGET CYCLE:

While the district works diligently to deliver water to our customers at a reasonable cost, occasional adjustments in rates become necessary. Like everyone, the impact of inflationary costs affects the district significantly and serves as a key driver for this year's rate increase. Factors such as goods and services, personnel expenses, as well as increased state and federal mandates, exert a major influence on the budget.

The cost of goods and services has escalated by as much as 35% over the past three years. Moreover, additional state and federal regulations, including compliance with EPA Lead and Copper Rule Revision, PFAS, and state safe drinking water regulations, necessitate additional costly sampling and analytical support. In order to address the ongoing operational and maintenance needs of the Water Distribution and newly constructed Water Treatment System, an adjustment in the rate is necessary.

Consequently, the SRWD Board of Commissioners will review and consider the adoption of an average 3.5% increase in the monthly rate, set to take effect beginning June 2024. Should it be adopted, customers can anticipate the increase commencing with the May-June meter reading cycle and the June monthly base facility charge for statements delivered at the end of June 2024.

Seal Rock Water District is an Equal Opportunity Service Provider and Employer.

Adam Denlinger, General Manager

adenlinger@srwd.org

www.srwd.org

Many of our customers use between 1,000 and 5,000 gallons per month. The impact of the increase for domestic customers utilizing 1,000 gallons per month is \$0.75 and for customers utilizing 5,000 gallons per month is \$2.75. The calculation process for water rates for customers outside the district will remain at 150% of the inside district rate.

Subject to ORS 264.312, the Seal Rock Water District Board of Commissioners will conduct a Public Hearing on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. or thereafter, to receive public testimony regarding the proposed rate adjustment. Interested customers are encouraged to attend the hearing. A draft proposed rate schedule is available for review upon request before the scheduled hearing. Please visit our website to access the proposed rate adjustment or contact our office.

The public hearing will be conducted via Zoom video conferencing by SRWD. Due to limited capacity for in-person meetings, the public is invited to attend this meeting electronically. Please email tkarlsen@srwd.org to receive registration information for this meeting. SRWD encourages the public to submit written comments or testimony regarding the Proposed Water Rate Adjustment and items included in the agenda via email to tkarlsen@srwd.org by 2:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting to ensure inclusion as public testimony. Alternatively, written comments or testimony may be mailed to the attention of SRWD, Office/Finance Manager, 1037 NW Grebe Street, Seal Rock, OR 97376. All comments received will be shared with the SRWD Board of Commissioners and included in the permanent record.

Other notable activities for the month include:

- Attended the Mid Coast Water Conservation Consortium Meeting.
- Hosted monthly staff/safety meeting.
- Attended the OWRD Place-Based Planning Coordinating Committee Meeting.
- Meet with state committee regarding OWRD Fee-Based programs.
- Staff met with representatives from USDA-RD to provide a Phase-4 progress report.
- Staff provided a tour of the water treatment plant for Board commissioners.
- Attended the monthly Oregon Water Utility Council (OWUC) meeting, on March 21st.
- Operators attended a cyber security webinar hosted by SDAO.
- Staff coordinated and hosted the Annual SRWD 2024/2025 Budget Committee Meeting.
- Staff worked with Jacobs Engineering in preparation for arbitration.
- Attended meeting with OWRD staff regarding water rights process improvements.
- Staff completed Lead and Copper service line inventory and provided data report to consultant for upload to the state's dashboard.