



North Salt Spring Waterworks District

Be water savvy – Use only what you need.

September 2016

Conservation Level 4 Still in Effect

Thank you to everyone who conserved so diligently over the summer. Unfortunately we're not out of the woods just yet, so until further notice (preceded by a great deal of rain) the District remains at Level 4 Conservation per Bylaw 274. Check our website for change notices and to view the regulations.

Parcel Tax Restructuring



The District has completed a months-long assessment of our parcel tax. The result is what we believe to be a fair and equitable system for our district. Currently a single family home pays the same

parcel tax and surcharge as a hotel, a commercial multiplex, or a commercial residential space with multiple dwellings.

The new structure reclassifies parcel tax categories into new categories based on use as well as parcel size. It is designed to be more equitable by taking into consideration the number and type of units on a property and their impact on the District's infrastructure. It will also broaden the parcel tax base allowing the new treatment plant surcharge to be spread out among a greater number of users, thus, in most cases, reducing the surcharge cost per ratepayer.

Considerable research was done for the District by InterGroup Consultants on how other districts tax and what would be equitable for NSSWD ratepayers.

Eighty-eight percent (88%) of ratepayers will remain in their current category with changes only affecting the remaining 12% of the ratepayers, primarily businesses. Vacant lot owners will see a decrease in their parcel tax. Those affected by the new class rates will see the changes phased-in over two to three years.

Detailed information and assessment notices showing your revised parcel tax class will be sent to all ratepayers in the very near future. Trustees and

management will also be meeting with some business owners to discuss the new structure and its implementation.

Update on the St. Mary Treatment Plant

After a lengthy delay to keep the cost down, the building of the new St. Mary treatment plant is now going out for open bid. Bidding will close in early October. Watch our website for announcements on this key project.

Capital Construction Surcharge

Due to the delay in building the new St. Mary Water Treatment Plant the Board has agreed that the Capital Construction Surcharge will remain at a base cost of \$150.00 for 2017. Money collected is held in a special Capital Fund account and will be used to cover construction loan costs, for a down payment on the construction costs (to reduce the amount to be borrowed), to cover any long-term borrowing costs incurred in 2017 and to fund other capital infrastructure costs.

Paying Online – Allow Sufficient Time

Just a reminder that if you're paying your bills online you need to set up two payment accounts for the Waterworks; one for your water bill and one for your parcel tax.



Payments can take anywhere from one to seven (1-7) business days (Monday-Friday) to reach our office, so please allow for this when making a payment. Your bill is only considered paid when we receive the payment in the office, not on the day you did the online transaction (or mailed it). Payments must be received in the office by 4:00 pm on the due date. Complete details for setting up your online banking by account number are on our website on the Payment Methods page.

Same-day payment can be made in the office by cash, cheque, debit, Visa or MasterCard. Visa and MasterCard payments are also accepted by phone.

Where are our Reservoirs At?

