

April 13, 2023

From the Commissioners of Kittitas County Water District 5

We hope this New Year finds you all well and looking forward to Spring.

We have a few updates here at KCWD5 that we wanted you to be aware of.

You may have seen the recent articles in the Tribune Newspaper where the excellent assistance provided by Puget Sound Energy during the bridge incident and the reconstruction, along with a brief summary of the growth experienced by KCWD5, were showcased.

As indicated in the article we are in the process of updating the system to include Radio Read Meters as well as other improvements to the system.

A8 THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023 • NKC TRIBUNE

REGIONAL NEWS

Kittitas County Water District 5 reflects on 48 years of growth

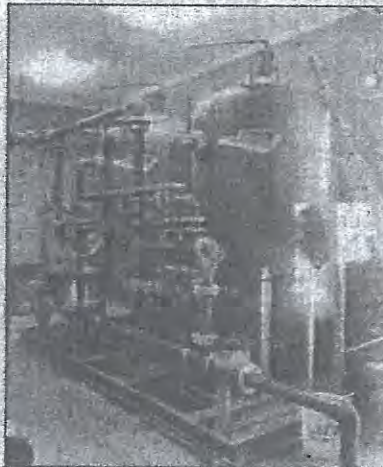
by Kittitas County
Water District #5

UPPER KITTITAS COUNTY - Kittitas County Water District 5 (KCWD5) was formed in 1975 to serve properties in Pine Valley, Elk Meadows Inc, Elk Meadows Park and along Hundley Road.

In 1977 we started the process of installing a 75,000 gallon water tank on Easton Ridge. Since then our permanent residency has increased over the years. The cistern system at the current office couldn't keep up with demand and required additional treatment since it was spring fed.

Water District 5 had a number of wells drilled to obtain more water without success. Finally in 2000, after a geological study, a well was drilled at the end of Swallow Lane that produces ample water for our customers. We also upgraded the water mains in Elk Meadows Park II adding fire hydrants.

In 2010 due to changes in Federal rules on arsenic levels, the pump house was upgraded to lower the arsenic levels to the Department of Health standards of 10 parts



UNIQUE WATER SYSTEM.
This is the only arsenic water treatment plant in Kittitas County.

Kittitas County Water District #5 photo

per billion. We have the only Arsenic Treatment Plant in Kittitas County.

Additional hydrants were installed at the entrance of Elk Meadows Inc and Pine Valley and a water line was installed and paid for by the Fire Department, to provide water to Kittitas County Fire District 7 Station 73 so that paid firefighters and Medic 2 personnel can stay in the living quarters for 24/7 response.

KCWD5 is in the process of

planning to provide resiliency and reliability by adding a second well (pump has failed twice in ten years) in the same well field as our current well, boring the waterline under the Yakima River that is supported by the Elk Meadows Inc Bridge, (water line compromised three times in last ten years) and adding a second reservoir tank. This will require a low interest loan to be paid over hopefully 40 years since all projects have a life span in excess of 40 years.

We will also be upgrading our water meters to Radio Read Meters so we can read meters during the winter and mitigate high water losses, which damage properties, by shutting off the water to the affected properties.

These projects will increase our water rates from \$88 bi-monthly to \$100.

We also increased the average water fees to promote water conservation and to pay for the improvements. We will not be able to provide reliable water to our customers without these changes.

Climate change will require all of our District 5 customers to be frugal using water in the future.

Because of these projects, which are necessary for us in order to continue to provide the quantity and quality of water required by the users of the water provided by KCWD5, and because we want to encourage water conservation within the district, we have also found it necessary to increase the Water Rates.

The new rate structure will go into effect June 1st, 2023 and will show up on your billing of August 1st, 2023. Following is the new rate structure.

Basic Rate \$100.00 Bi-monthly 0-2000 cubic feet or portion thereof

Additional usage tier

+\$55.00	2001-3000 cubic feet or portion thereof (total \$155.00)
+\$71.00	3001-4000 cubic feet or portion thereof (total \$226.00)
+156.00	4001-5000 cubic feet or portion thereof (total \$382.00)
+290.00	5001-6000 cubic feet or portion thereof (total \$672.00)
+\$290.00	For each additional 1000 cubic feet or portion thereof after 6000

And lastly, but definitely not the least important bit of news, we are sad to announce that Joyce Jones, our District Secretary of over 13 years will be retiring. While we are happy for Joyce to have this time to enjoy her retirement, but she will be sorely missed. She will however be staying on as a commissioner and as a consultant to assist our incoming District Secretary in getting fully acquainted with all of the duties of the District Secretary. Sandy Malcolm, who is currently serving as the District Clerk and being trained by Joyce will take over the District Secretary position in June. Sandy is a long-time resident of Kittitas County and is also employed by our local Fire District. We hope you will welcome her in her new role.

We hope you all have a wonderful Spring and Summer and as always, we the Commissioners of KCWD5, are always here to serve you and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Fred Marion/Commissioner/Chairman

Sonja Busby/Commissioner, Secretary to the Board

Joyce Jones/ Commissioner/District Secretary