



Bear Creek Water and Sanitation District Newsletter – January 2023

Dear Bear Creek Water and Sanitation District (BCWSD) Customers:

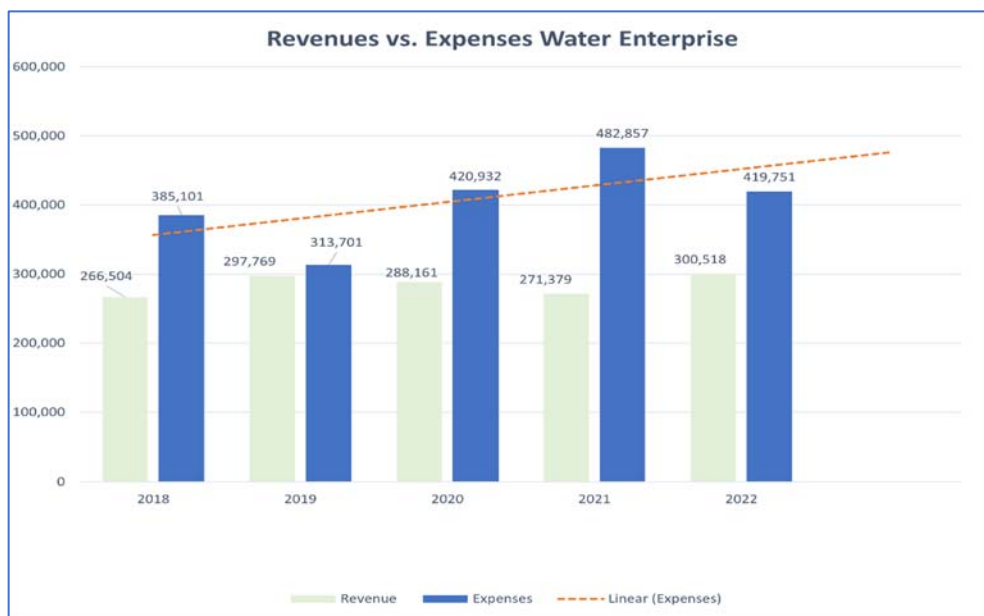
There **WILL NOT** be a sewer rate increase on the BCWSD sewer billing for 2023 since sewer billing amounts are sufficient to cover the O&M expenses for the BCWSD sewage collection system and the sewage treatment charges paid to Metro Water Recovery."

Notice of 2023 Water Surcharge Increase (Billed on Denver Water Bill beginning 1/1/23)

There will be an increase in the water surcharge for 2023. BCWSD is a water distributor of Denver Water under a Read and Bill Service Agreement. The District will collect a surcharge of \$7.00 per single-family residential equivalent (SFRE) on the Denver Water billing to contribute towards the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) of the water distribution lines owned by the District. This surcharge amount was increased from \$6.00 per month per SFRE in 2022. This was the first increase to the water surcharge since 2018 due to the rising costs of the operations and maintenance of the water system.

The 2023 Water Surcharge is also based upon consideration of the following budgeted water O&M expenses:

- \$75,000 is budgeted for 2023 Operations and Maintenance for the water system and provides for inspection of all appurtenances to the public water system every two years.
- An additional amount of \$437,000 is budgeted for engineering and follow-up maintenance and repair work as indicated from the water system inspections.



If you have a question or concern about your water bill, please contact the **Denver Water Customer Care Team at 303-893-2444**, Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Information about Denver Water rates can be found on the Denver Water website at www.denverwater.org. If you have a question about the water surcharge, please contact the BCWSD office at 303-986-3442.

\$250,000 is budgeted in 2023 for a Water Capital study to determine the condition of Ductile Iron (DI) water mains within the District to determine if future replacement is needed. The District has completed Phases 1 and 2 of the Hodgson/Wesley water line project, which included the installation of a new water main from S. Kipling Street along Morrison Road and North through Hodgson Park. Phase 2 included an extension of the Hodgson Park water line, replacing and upsizing a portion of the existing water line from an 8" to a 12" main. These studies and improvements benefit District customers by improving water quality and reliability within the water distribution system.

BCWSD Engineers have been working on a risk analysis/wildfire preparation study of the District owned water distribution system's interplay between zones in case the primary water feeds would become disabled due to an emergency. The District will use this information to develop an emergency plan, including emergency contacts and the consideration of assistance from or to neighboring water Districts, so that the District could assist West Metro Fire Department in case of a wildfire in the BCWSD area.

Bear Creek Water and Sanitation District will continue work on projects that are part of our Water and Sanitary Sewer Master Plan. The District is staying on top of the operations and preventative maintenance, as well as planning for the upgrades needed to keep the water and sanitary sewer systems running. BCWSD reviews the water surcharge amount each year with consideration of the rising costs of operations, maintenance and replacement of the infrastructure in order to determine if a rate increase is necessary. The District will continue to maintain and build reserves for future repair and replacement of aging infrastructure

Denver Water News Regarding PFAS (from www.denverwater.org)

PFAS, short for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are chemical compounds manufactured and used for decades to repel water, grease and oil. They can be found in many common products, including fire-fighting foam, carpets, clothing, nonstick cookware, food packaging, plastic, coatings, dental floss and some high-end ski waxes.

The chemicals don't easily break down, earning themselves the nickname the "forever chemicals." Research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show most people in the United States have been exposed to some PFAS. Research suggests exposure to high levels of certain PFAS may lead to health impacts.

Because PFAS are so widely used, the chemicals can get into the water cycle in a number of ways. Firefighting foam can seep into groundwater supplies. PFAS-containing products in landfills can break down and the chemicals can leach out of the landfill. When PFAS-containing products — such as cookware, cosmetics or water-resistant clothing — are washed with water, trace amounts of the chemicals can be carried down the drain and into the community's wastewater system. At the same time, a spotlight has been put on the water and wastewater industries (including Denver Water and Metro Water Recovery) to remove these widely used chemicals from our environment, even the trace amounts that may appear in the water system.

What can you do about PFAS?

You can help! Learn more about where PFAS is used in our society and about alternative, PFAS-free products that you could use instead. This will not only protect your health, but also reduce the amount of PFAS in circulation. Several groups are working on lists of PFAS-free consumer goods, including <https://pfascentral.org>.

Denver Water is committed to ensuring a clean, safe water supply for our customers. Denver Water' water quality experts have been studying the evolving information about the chemicals and involved in discussions with legislators, state and local regulators and other utilities on how to best find, control, remove and prevent PFAS contamination in water.

The Environmental Protection Agency in 2016 issued a health advisory asking drinking water providers to test for two specific kinds of PFAS (called PFOA and PFOS) and look for anything over 70 parts per trillion (a tiny, tiny amount). In June 2022, EPA issued a new, interim health advisory on those two kinds of PFAS in drinking water with significantly lower limits (far lower than that 70 parts per trillion in the 2016 advisory). The EPA is expected to finalize a new regulation on two kinds of PFAS, the PFOA and the PFOS, in 2023.

Denver Water has tested for PFAS-related compounds in source water and drinking water as the water comes into and goes out of the treatment plants since 2017 and have not detected anything above the reportable limit

At the state level, in 2022 Colorado's Gov. Jared Polis signed a new law (House Bill 1345) that will gradually restrict the sale of PFAS in consumer products, as well as fluids used in the extraction of oil and gas products, starting as early as 2024. The new state law will prohibit the sale or distribution in Colorado of products that contain PFAS, such as cosmetics, carpets or rugs, fabric treatments, food packaging and juvenile products. Cookware that contains PFAS will have to carry a label.

Bear Creek Water and Sanitation District Board Meetings

Monthly Board meetings are now being held in person (with a remote option) on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the District Office located at 2517 South Flower Street. If you cannot attend a Board Meeting in person, you can make arrangements with the District Manager to attend meetings remotely, using the Zoom meeting application.

For information about the District, please visit the website at www.bearcreekwater.org.

You can also contact the District office by phone at 303-986-3442 during normal business hours,

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or by email at bearcreekwater@bearcreekwater.org.

Thank you for conserving water.

Sincerely,

Jan C. Walker, District Manager, Bear Creek Water and Sanitation District E-Mail: janwalker@bearcreekwater.org