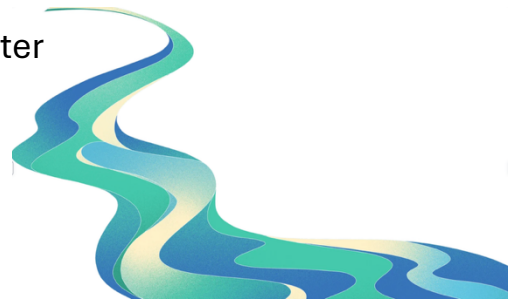


NKNWD August Newsletter

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GOOD NEWS!

The District is taking a step toward better emergency preparedness. We were recently awarded a \$50,000 grant to study the technical requirements of establishing an intertie with the City of Manzanita system.

Since Manzanita and Neahkahnie are neighboring systems, the risks from fire and acute drought conditions are similar. But our respective water sources—groundwater (wells) and spring flows—are different offering supply diversification.

An old intertie exists near Nehalem Road, but the system was never tested or opened. The study will evaluate the existing system and consider operational issues such as pressure differences, storage, and control which may require infrastructure additions.

Business Oregon's Water/Wastewater Fund awarded the grant. It's part of a broader effort to enhance regional solutions among water systems in North Tillamook County.

NEW WATER USE RATES

The new water use rates went into effect on July 1. These summer use rates, effective for July through October** are as follows (use is for each two-month billing period):

- Tier 1: 0-6000 gallons @ \$5 per 1000 gallons
- Tier 2: 6001-12,000 gallons @ \$10 per 1000 gallons
- Tier 3: 12,001-18,000 gallons @ \$20 per 1000 gallons
- Tier 4: over 18,001 gallons @ \$40 per 1000 gallons

The previous use rates were:

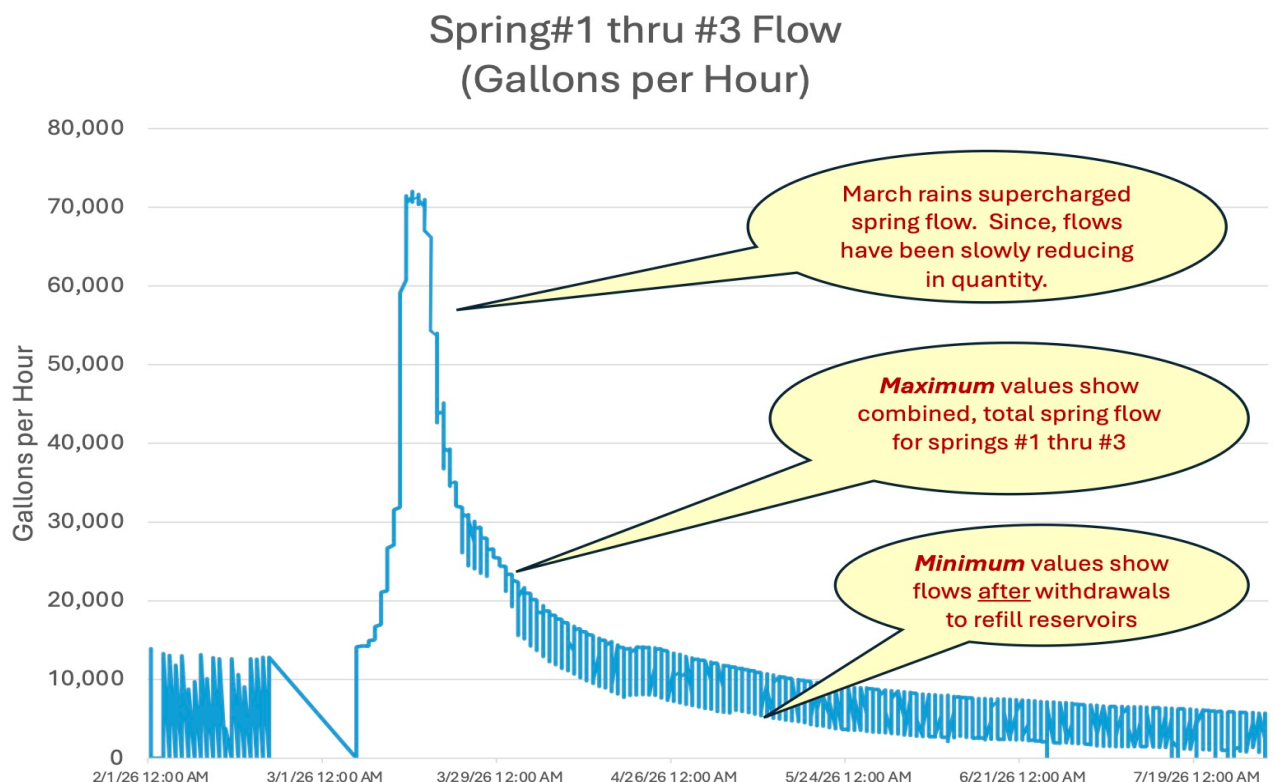
- Tier 1: 0-8000 gallons @ \$4 per 1000 gallons
- Tier 2: 8001-16000 gallons @ \$6 per 1000 gallons
- Tier 3: 16001-24000 gallons @ \$10 per 1000 gallons
- Tier 4: 24001+ gallons @\$15 per 1000 gallons

The new use rates are intended to further encourage conservation of water during the low spring flow summer period. During the May-June billing period, 5% of the District's customers used over 25% of the water billed. The new Tier 3 and particularly Tier 4 rates are intended to discourage this level of use.

**A different rate structure will apply to the November through June billing periods. Check the District's website for more details

WATER SUPPLY

As is typical for this time of year, the flow in the District's four springs is dropping. The flow will continue to drop until the fall rains begin (assuming El Nino doesn't interfere-- apparently could be drier or could be wetter). Fortunately, the flow is slightly higher than it was at this time last year. However, we still have several months of decreasing water supply so conservation is still very important.



As you may remember by this time last year, the District had instituted a Level One Alert which prohibited certain types of water use. This was done due to concern of how rapidly the water flow was dropping early in the year. Based on that experience, the Board modified the spring flow triggers for activating a conservation Alert. Hopefully the Board will not have to initiate Alerts this season. However, both water supply and usage are being monitored as the summer progresses. Hopefully you will not see the District's redesigned Alert signage this year!

RECENT DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

The District has been working to address deferred maintenance issues and to update needed infrastructure. These activities are being done on a priority basis to stay within the District's budget.

Needed Maintenance:

The District's water system uses four pumps to move water from its source to the reservoirs. Three of the pumps were more than 20 years old and needed significant repairs. One new pump and motor have been installed while a second pump has been rebuilt and a third will be rebuilt if its condition permits. The new pump assembly has significantly increased pumping efficiency at the main pumping station saving on electricity. The goal is to have four fully reliable pumps in operation with one held in reserve for emergencies.

The District's system has multiple flow meters to measure water being introduced into and moved through the system. The District is in the process of replacing two meters with others being evaluated for accuracy of readings. The overall system is being evaluated to determine if additional flow meters should be installed to provide better control of operations.

System Upgrades:

Remote reading water meters

As has been previously reported, the District installed remote reading water meters in 2024. There has been a learning curve in getting these fully operational with the need to install extended antennas on some. At this point the District is getting routine hourly water use data from almost all the meters. These regular readings have helped identify leaks in homeowner's systems. There are ongoing operational issues non-reading meters due to meter boxes filling with water or soil. Homeowners can help by periodically looking in their meter box and clearing any soil from around the meter.

These meters also have the capability of detecting the sound made by significant water leaks. District staff has recently received training in the use of the software which the

District has licensed to use this feature. This should allow for the detection of leaks in the District's distribution system.

Detecting leaks in the District's water distribution system is an ongoing problem. Usually the water loss must be at a rate or for a long enough period that it can be observed on the ground surface. Even a half gallon per minute leak will result in over a 20,000 gallon water loss in a month. If you see a wet spot (particularly in the summer months), please call the District office with the location so it can be checked out.

The report of just such a wet spot resulted in the recent repair of a significant leak which will save thousands of gallons of water per month.

Emergency Generators

The pumps that move water in the system as well as the pumps that introduce required water treatment chemicals into the water supply are electrical. If the electrical service is interrupted, the District's water supply would be limited to the amount of water currently in the reservoirs (and for some of the system only the water in one reservoir).

To address power outages, the District has installed three, on-demand, emergency generators. These generators automatically begin supplying power when the normal electrical service is interrupted. This will permit the District's operation to continue for several days until the utility has restored power.

System Improvements Cost \$\$\$

Upgrading the District's aging system is expensive. The combined cost of the new meters and generators was well over \$300,000. As indicated above, the Board has a priority list of such improvements with a timeline to fit the budget.

PRESSURE REDUCING VALVES

The District strongly recommends that every home have a pressure reducing valve (PRV). A PRV is a relatively inexpensive plumbing item. WHERE should the PRV be located? A PRV should be installed between the water meter and the house inlet. Water that enters the valve from the main is constricted within the valve body and sent through the inner chamber. Even if the water pressure fluctuates, the pressure reducing valve maintains a constant flow of water at a functional pressure.

Learn more here:

<https://nwdor.specialdistrict.org/faq-s>

BACKFLOW PREVENTION

To help keep our community's drinking water safe, backflow prevention devices are required for certain properties and water uses. Backflow preventers are critical safety devices that stop contaminated water from flowing backward into the public water system.

Who needs a backflow preventer?

Backflow prevention devices are typically required for any connection where there is a potential for contamination, where water holding systems are directly connected to the district's water system. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Irrigation or outdoor sprinkler/watering systems
- Hot water based (hydronic) heating system
- Pool, hotub, or pond
- Hose bibs older than 1991 or not anti-siphon hose bibs (annual inspection not required)
- Fire sprinkler system
- Well or other auxiliary water source

Find out more here:

<https://nwdor.specialdistrict.org/backflow-prevention-testing-requirements>

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Nern is chairing an advisory committee which is considering the need for and possible size of a new reservoir for the District. This group of District customers and Board members is assessing the condition of the existing reservoirs and projecting storage needs over the next several decades. The conclusions of this committee will be augmented by an engineering study updating the existing Master Plan which will be conducted later this fall. All meetings of the committee are public so that anyone who is interested can virtually attend (sorry, the District office is too small to attend in person). Notices of the meetings are posted locally and on the District's website (nknwd.org).

FEEDBACK WELCOMED

As always, if you have questions, comments, concerns regarding the District, the best way to contact us is to use the form on the District's website, nknwd.org. The appropriate party, District employee or Board member will respond.

Board of Commissioners, Neahkahnle Water District