



Water District #7
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Dear Valued Customer,

The Water District 7 Commissioners and Staff are writing to keep you informed of necessary changes to our rate schedule for the upcoming year. We remain committed to providing safe, reliable water service while managing rising external costs and aging infrastructure.

1. Water Use Rate Adjustment: Effective January 1, 2026, the City of Bellingham is increasing the wholesale water rate charged to our District. As a direct pass-through of this cost, the District Water Use Rate will increase by \$0.49 per 100 cubic feet (748 gallons) for all tiers. This change will appear on your January 2026 billing statement.

Please note that the 2026 District Base Rate (the fixed operational cost) will remain unchanged at \$64.00 per billing cycle (every other month).

2. Capital Improvement Projects and Fee Adjustment: As outlined in the 2023 Comprehensive Water System Plan, the District is prioritizing critical water main replacements at Toad Lake Road and Academy Road. These mains have exceeded their useful life, and the original materials are vulnerable to seismic activity.

We are pleased to report that the District has successfully secured funding from the Public Works Board for these projects. By securing state financing, we have minimized the financial burden on our customers. In order to offset the Capital Project finance payments, the Capital Fee will increase by \$5 per month (\$10 per billing cycle) beginning on the January 2026 billing statement. It is important to be aware additional Capital Fee increases are expected over the next few years as these planned funded capital projects progress.

We appreciate your continued support as we invest in a sustainable future for our water system. Full rate schedules and project details are available at www.waterdistrict7.com.

Respectfully,

Your Water District 7 Board of Commissioners
Mark Lann, George Kaas, and Tessa Ebbesen