

Thurston County Storm and Surface Water Utility Rate Credit and Incentive Programs

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Current SSWU Rate Incentives

- Lake Management District (LMD)& Special District Rate Reduction
- Non-Residential Rate Credit Program

LMD and Special District Rate Reduction

From TCC 15.06.040(D)

Lake Management District and Drainage District Rate Reduction. For real property located within lake management districts and drainage districts within the utility, the rates and charges set by subsection B of this section shall be reduced by fifty percent or the amount of the charge from such district, whichever is less, provided that the lake management or drainage district:

- 1. Is actively engaged in projects and programs which have water quality improvement as a primary goal; and*
- 2. Submits a report to the department on or before July 1st of the preceding year documenting the projects and programs which were undertaken in the preceding twelve months.*



Origination of LMD and Special District Rate Reductions

Ordinance #12829 – Adopted September, 2002

“Lake management districts....drainage districts further the utility’s objectives by providing surface water conveyance systems. For these reasons, the Board finds that there should be a reduction in utility rates for property owners in these districts to account for some duplication of purposes and activities.”



LMD and Special District Rate Reduction Participants

Long Lake Management District - \$36,791.90

Lawrence Lake Management District - \$19,166.49

Black Lake Special District - \$22,690.75

Chambers Drainage District - \$5,954.00

Hopkins Drainage District - \$1,507.00

Scott Lake Special District – 13,988.00

Total 2021 Rate Reduction - \$100,098.14



Non-Residential Rate Credit Program

- First established in 2012 as a Pilot Program
- Made permanent with 2019 code revision.
- Recognizes non-residential rate payers (schools, commercial businesses, etc.) whose activities support the County's stormwater management goals by granting these parcel owners up to a 50% credit on their stormwater rates and charges.



Non-Residential Rate Credit Program Participants

- Two School Districts
- One College
- One Governmental Jurisdiction
- One Church
- One Commercial Business

Total 2021 Rate Reduction - \$55,548.76



Current (2021) Rate Credits and Fee Reductions

\$155,649.90

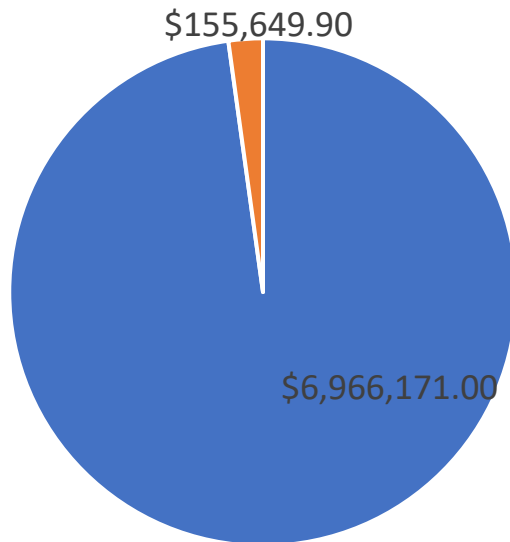
Or

2.23% of SSWU Revenue

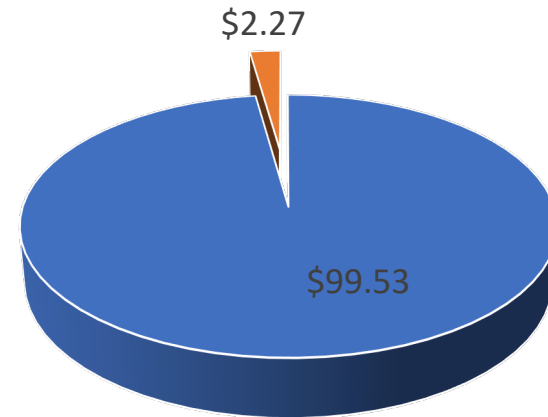


Impact to Operating Budget and Ratepayers

Fee Reduction Impact to Operating Budget



% of Average Residential Bill that Supports Fee Reductions



■ 2021 SSWU Revenue ■ 2021 Fee Reductions

■ Average Single Family Home ■ Support of Rate Reductions Programs

Future Considerations

- Do the rate credit programs achieve the original intent of incentivization (duplicated services, increased awareness, proactive maintenance and reporting)?
- Do the benefits achieved align with SSWU objectives?
- Is it more cost effective and less labor intensive to perform SSWU functions in-house?
- Does placing the burden of fee reductions on ordinary rate payers cause inequity?

Questions?

