

SOUTH EVERGREEN WATER DISTRICT  
32045 Castle Court, Suite 103  
Evergreen, CO 80439  
**Mailing Address:** PO Box 2830, Evergreen, CO 80437

**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING *IMPORTANT* LETTER**

Dear SEWD Homeowner:

December 2022

Holiday greetings from your South Evergreen Water District (SEWD)! The following information is provided as an update regarding (SEWD) and State water requirements.

**REASON FOR SEWD RESERVOIRS**

The Colorado Division of Water Resources required that subdivisions created after 1972 had to replace a portion of water used from their wells each year by putting that water (augmentation) back into the area water supply. The three reservoirs located along Highway 73 near the main entrance to Evergreen Meadows were created for that reason. They hold enough required water for each household well drilled in Evergreen Meadows Units 8, 9, and 10 and Unit 5 in Evergreen Highlands. Because these units were platted after 1972, they are subject to the above mandate. **If our reservoirs are not in compliance with the Colorado Division of Water Resources, then our wells might be shut down.**

**WATER RIGHTS PROTECTION**

Protecting our water rights is a constant effort. Developers and other water districts regularly challenge our water rights. This requires the Board to hire attorneys and water engineers to defend our rights on a regular basis.

**WATER FEE UPDATE**

**The fee for 2023 will remain at \$500.00 and must be postmarked by Feb. 28, 2023. You may now make your payments on the new SEWD website. (Please see more information below.) Payments postmarked after that date will incur additional fees as noted on your invoice.**

**MAINTENANCE AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

In May 2021, the newly lined southernmost reservoir had a problem with excessive water, overburdening the existing underliner drainage system. This caused the lifting of a portion of the liner. A pressure-relief trench for drainage and water diversion on reservoir #4 was necessary. For a long-term repair, SEWD installed an additional drainage system on the west bank. The project was completed in September 2022. The \$25,000 grant we applied for and received enabled us to complete the project without additional fees.

We still have other work to be done on the leaking fill-ditch head gate and on an eroding reservoir dike wall. Also the original 51-year-old flume that measures the amount of water captured from the stream needs to be replaced. These projects will be undertaken when our resources are replenished.

We currently have five capable volunteers, along with occasional help of others, who do many things for our district. This saves SEWD a lot of money! They help do the things necessary to maintain the State augmentation plan. They move water into the reservoirs when we are in priority and release water back into

the stream when directed by the State Water Commissioner. Measurements must be taken each day at each reservoir during this process, as well as at the end of each month. The data must be reviewed, entered onto spread sheets, and sent to the State. All of this work takes countless hours each year. If we contracted this work, it would cost upwards of \$25,000 annually or more. The volunteers' efforts help slow the increase in our annual fees.

We were and still are fortunate to have the assistance of an engineer who ran a successful engineering company. He acted as our volunteer SEWD owner-representative to oversee the drainage project. He was onsite almost daily checking progress with the contractor and addressing potential problems before they occurred.

Many thanks to our volunteers who contribute countless hours toward the operation of SEWD. We are always looking for volunteers who would like to start learning the process so when someone retires there will be people ready to carry on the work at these reservoirs. If you feel that you could volunteer to help in some capacity, please call one of the Board members or our administrator.

## WELL WATER USAGE

Our water augmentation plan is a 2-part plan. The first part is the operation and maintenance of the ponds for well usage. The second part is the explanation of well usage.

A number of residents in our water district have asked about well water usage. Our district operates under a water decree that was established by the State. This decree states that our wells are for “**domestic use for in-house purposes only**”. Your well permit should confirm that.

Below is an explanation directly from the Water Resources Engineer regarding water and well usage per our Water Augmentation Plan:

*Permits to construct wells within Evergreen Meadows Units 8, 9, and 10 (a portion of which was replatted as the Timbers Estates) and Evergreen Highlands Unit 5 are issued pursuant to the plan for augmentation approved by the Water Court in case no. W-7540. Wells within these subdivisions must be operated in accordance with the terms and condition of the decree in order to remain in compliance with Colorado water law. The decree allows the use of the wells for "domestic use for in-house purposes only, not involving irrigation." Uses that are not considered domestic use and cannot be supplied by water from a well covered under the subdivision-wide augmentation plan would include the commercial use of a property as an event venue for parties or weddings; bed and breakfasts; an onsite commercial business that has employees or customers; or the use of water in a product to be sold, such as brewing beer. In addition, the limitation to in-house purposes only would not allow for any use of water outside of the house including for the filling or refilling of hot tubs, swimming pools, or water features; the watering of animals, such as horses, that are not pets living inside the dwelling; the washing of vehicles or equipment; or for the watering or "greening up" of lawns, gardens, trees or other plants outside the home, including in a greenhouse. General information regarding augmentation plans, including a [Beginner's Guide to Augmentation Plans for Wells](https://dwr.colorado.gov/services/water-administration/augmentation-plans), may be found on our website at <https://dwr.colorado.gov/services/water-administration/augmentation-plans>.*

If you need additional information about water usage that falls outside the in-house purposes only, contact: Corey T. DeAngelis, Division Engineer, Water Division 1, phone number 970-352-8712 EXT 1204 and/or Sarah Brucker, Water Resources Engineer, 303-866-3581 EXT 8249.

## **MOUNTAIN AREA DEVELOPMENT**

Since water is an important issue for our mountain area, we need to be aware of any new proposed subdivisions and their possible negative effects on our ability to augment water. As a Board, we try to stay apprised of any such projects. Sometimes it requires attending and testifying at Jeffco Planning and Commissioner meetings.

Currently there is a problem with the Conifer Metro District's (CMD) treatment plant's ability to properly treat its wastewater. They have been allowed to discharge more pollutants than is recommended by the EPA. This could potentially cause problems in our ponds and wells that are in close proximity to North Turkey Creek. They now are requesting a variance that will allow a discharge of four times the allowed contaminant level. The plant is presently under a "cease and desist" order from the State because of the high levels of contaminants in their discharge to North Turkey Creek.

## **NEW SEWD WEBSITE**

To access the SEWD website, go to: [southevergreenwd.colorado.gov](http://southevergreenwd.colorado.gov) *You can pay your bill on this site.* There is also information about the water district, including meeting agendas, minutes, schedules, reports, and budget. For contact information, see below.

## **TRANSPARENCY INFORMATION**

Pursuant to section §32-1-809, Colorado Revised Statutes, SEWD has posted transparency information on the Special District Association website. To view this information, please access the internet and go to [www.sdaco.org](http://www.sdaco.org). Click on "Resources" and then click on "Special District Transparency Information." Type in "South Evergreen Water District" then click "Search." Click on the district name to view all information.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Our administrator is:  
Simonson & Associates  
32045 Castle Court, Suite 103  
Evergreen, CO 80439  
Phone: 303-674-3379, ext. 203  
Mailing address: SEWD  
PO Box 2830  
Evergreen, CO 80437

If you are a new owner or your contact information has changed, please contact the district administrator.

If you have questions about the district or your bill, please contact your Board of Directors, Louise Decker, President, at 720-839-6947 or Ann English, Vice President, at 303-981-8735.

***YOUR PAYMENT MUST INCLUDE THE 2023 WATER FEE AND ALL APPLICABLE LATE FEES AND COLLECTION FEES, IF ANY, FOR THIS YEAR AND PREVIOUS YEARS.***

***THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR MAKING YOUR PAYMENT IN A TIMELY MANNER AND FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR EFFORTS TO REMAIN STATE-COMPLIANT.***