

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 2021

The following information is provided as an update regarding South Evergreen Water District (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 2022 will be \$500.00 and must be postmarked by Feb. 28, 2022. Payments postmarked after that date will incur additional fees as noted on your invoice.

The fees have increased this year for two primary reasons. SEWD's financial reserves were spent lining reservoir #4 in 2020. Also, an additional 2021 drainage issue will require more funds. We have applied for a second financial grant to help, which is not a simple task and is very time consuming. At this time, we are pleased to report that the grant funds look promising.

MAINTENANCE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Due to the State's stringent water requirements, the repair of our nonfunctioning southernmost (#4) reservoir was completed in 2020. A liner was installed, which was a significant cost to SEWD. The 2019 special assessment, plus the grant we were awarded, made this financially possible.

In May 2021, we 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 will install an additional drainage system on the west bank.

We still have other work to be done on a leaking head gate and on an eroding reservoir dike wall. These projects will be undertaken when our resources are replenished, and our emergency repairs are completed.

We currently have four 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 looked over, entered into 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 \$20,000 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 liner project. He was on-site 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, Sarah Brucker, 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. If you wish to know more about these projects, please call one of the Board members.

Currently there is a problem with the Conifer Metro District's (CMD) treatment plant's ability to properly treat its wastewater. The plant is presently under a "cease and desist" order from the State. We have been closely monitoring this situation.

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. 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. 200
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 2022 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.