

Board Byline — We're Investing in Our Infrastructure to Comply with State Regulations

By: Susan Keil, Board Chair

Everyday OLWS helps to maintain the public health of our communities by safely and reliably removing wastewater from homes and businesses, while also delivering life-sustaining drinking water to customers and promoting healthy waterways for all to enjoy. OLWS is committed to providing customers with safe and reliable drinking water from the Clackamas River to customers' tap.

OLWS' infrastructure is aging and in need of repair. **This isn't only an issue facing OLWS, utilities nationwide are dealing with aging infrastructure, as much of the modern infrastructure that serves our communities is 60+ years old.** If we don't continue making these repairs, the issues we've identified will only grow, leading to more costly repairs in the future.

Research shows that both the OLWS water delivery and wastewater treatment and collections systems require significant repairs and replacement. The most pressing needs are to:

- 1) build a third level of treatment called a tertiary filtration facility at the existing OLWS Wastewater Treatment Plant, and
- 2) reduce inflow and infiltration in the wastewater collections system. This will help prevent sanitary sewer overflows, alleviate undue pressure on the entire system, thereby extending the life of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

These two large projects will assist to keep OLWS in compliance with state laws. If these repairs are not made, OLWS will be out of compliance with State mandates and will be fined until compliance is achieved.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank our Budget Committee and everyone who provided comments at the June 20, 2023 public hearing on the proposed \$25.03 per month increase for the average residential customer's monthly cost*. These rates are effective on July 1, 2023. Below is a breakdown of the increase by service:

- Drinking Water \$6.83 per month
- Wastewater \$17.23 per month
- Watershed Protection \$0.97 per month

Conversations about rate increases are challenging. We know that your pocketbook is directly impacted. Our Board of Directors and Budget Committee — comprised of volunteers from the community — worked diligently to find fiscally responsible solutions to have a cost-effective budget and rates to keep our services reliable.

OLWS has two different financial programs that offer support to our customers. If you are interested in learning more about these programs, please visit us at OakLodgeWaterServices.org/financial-assistance, call (503) 654-7765 to talk to a billing specialist, or email info@olwsd.org for more information.

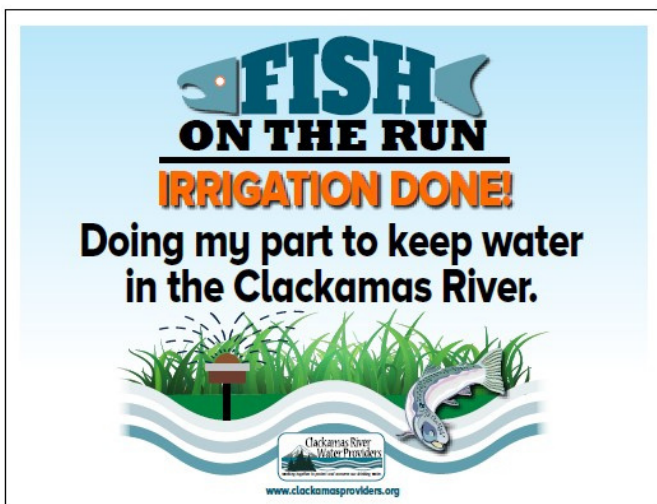
**OLWS defines its average residential customer as a single-family residence with a 5/8-inch water meter, monthly water consumption of 6 CCF (hundred cubic feet), winter average water consumption (averaged as a calculation of wastewater billing) of 6 CCF, and 2,500 square feet of impervious (non-porous) surface (one equivalent service unit or ESU) for watershed protection billing.*

Fish on the Run, Irrigation Done

The Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP) is a coalition of municipal drinking water providers that get their drinking water from the Clackamas River — which includes Oak Lodge Water Services — is asking customers to help keep water in the Clackamas River by reducing or shutting-off outdoor watering for the fall fish runs.

In addition to providing drinking water to over 300,000 people the Clackamas River is also home to migrating salmon and steelhead virtually year-round. Most of the year there is plenty of water in the river, however summer is the time of year when the Clackamas River is flowing at its lowest levels, because of limited rain fall. As our summers are getting longer and hotter, making sure there is enough water in the river for the fall fish runs is becoming more challenging.

Visit ClackamasProviders.org starting August 1, 2023 to learn more about the summer watering campaign. Take the "Fish on the Run, Irrigation Done" pledge and receive a free yard sign (image below) to let your neighbors know you're saving water for fish in the Clackamas River.



What's Your Lawn Style?

We want to introduce you to a special public service campaign created by the Clean Rivers Coalition — *What's Your Lawn Style*.

What's Your Lawn Style has short informational videos that offer free tips to homeowners for any level of lawn maintenance — low, medium, or high. Viewers will learn how to maintain their lawns at a level of effort that is right for them, with little or no pesticides and fertilizer. The result? Good-looking lawns that are safe for kids and pets, while keeping chemical runoff out of our waterways. Check out What's Your Lawn Style's videos here: bit.ly/3yaudng

Community Participation

You're invited to attend OLWS Board meetings. The public may attend through Zoom video conference or in-person (14496 SE River Road). The upcoming meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on:

July 18 | August 15 | September 19

Learn how to attend at OakLodgeWaterServices.org or email info@olwsd.org for assistance.

Emergency Contact Information

Our team is available 24 hours a day at (503) 654-7765. If you see water gushing up out of either the street, ground, or from a manhole, please call us. Use the same number if you notice sewer spills or if you see someone illegally dumping into a storm drain.



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