

## **CITY OF BURIEN CONSIDERING 6% UTILITY TAX**

King County Water District No. 49 is issuing this notice to inform its customers that the City of Burien is considering adopting a 6% utility tax. If the utility tax is adopted, and you are located within Burien and receive water or sewer service from **Water District No. 20, Water District No. 49, Southwest Suburban Sewer District or Valley View Sewer District**, your water and/or sewer rates will be increased by at least 6%. For customers receiving both water and sewer service, you could experience a rate increase of at least 6% on each bill.

Due to projected budget deficits, the City is considering various options to increase revenues. One option considered is the imposition of a 6% franchise fee on water and sewer districts. In December of 2018, the City requested a meeting with the districts to discuss potential City Council action regarding a utility tax and the negotiation of franchise agreements. In an effort to protect the interests of the districts' customers, the districts agreed to coordinate their efforts and to negotiate collectively with Burien on mutually acceptable franchise terms.

Unfortunately, efforts to negotiate mutually acceptable franchise agreements have been unsuccessful. The primary issue preventing further negotiations involves the City's refusal to accept terms which would limit the City's ability to impose additional utility taxes. While the districts are willing to consider franchises that would include the requirement to pay a 6% franchise fee to the City, the districts are seeking the City's agreement not to impose additional utility taxes on top of the negotiated franchise fee during the term of the franchise. The City has indicated that it is unwilling to waive its right to impose an additional utility tax. The City has advised the districts that the City will be reviewing its options before the end of 2019, including the imposition of a utility tax.

The districts feel strongly that their respective customers need to be informed and made aware that the City is considering imposing a utility tax so you can monitor the City's actions and become involved in an issue that could result in significant increases to your water and sewer rates. If you are concerned about the City imposing a utility tax on the districts, the districts encourage you to contact the Burien City Council and to become involved in this important discussion. If you have any questions, you may also contact the District General Manager **Bryan Koehmstedt** directly at **(206) 242-8535** or by email at [info@wd49.com](mailto:info@wd49.com).

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