



24602 Old Owen Road - P.O. Box 158, Monroe, WA. 98272-0158 - Phone: (360) 794-6900 - Fax: (360) 805-0616

July 29, 2026

Dear Highland Water District and Friar Creek Customers,

Some customers may already know that Highland Water District purchases water wholesale from the City of Everett and provides it to our customers.

The District's usage charge is based solely on the amount the City of Everett charges us for purchased water. When the City raises its water rates, we must pass that increase directly on to our customers through the usage charge.

To help address a \$15 million shortfall in its 2027 general fund budget, the Everett City Council approved a 12% utility tax at its May 27, 2026, meeting. The tax takes effect August 1, 2026.

Despite Highland Water District's efforts for preventing unexpected, excessive, and unnecessary rate increases for our customers, this will be Everett's third rate increase in the last three years.

The City of Everett supplies water through local providers to 75% of Snohomish County residents and businesses. Because the new 12% utility tax applies to all these providers, Highland Water District as a wholesale purchaser of Everett's water—must respond in the same manner as other Snohomish County water purveyors.

It is with overwhelming disappointment and frustration that we will have to pass along another increase this year. The rate increase will raise the current usage rate of \$2.66 to \$3.20 per every, one hundred Cubic Feet of usage and will take effect August 1st, 2026. You should expect to see this new rate on our September 1st bill.

If you would like more information about the Everett utilities Rate increase, we encourage you to please visit the following link:

<https://www.everettwa.gov/3361/Rates-2026>

For news related sources on this imposed tax please consider visiting the following article links:

<https://myedmondsnews.com/2026/07/providers-push-back-as-everetts-water-rate-increases-could-raise-bills-for-75-of-county/>

<https://www.heraldnet.com/2026/07/24/cities-concerned-after-everett-hikes-utility-tax-proposes-rate-increase/>

If you would like to directly reach out to the Everett City Council Office:

Phone: [425-257-8703](tel:425-257-8703)

aely@everettwa.gov

Or to contact your local government

Dave Somers

Snohomish County Executive

Phone: 425-388-3050

Dave.Somers@co.snohomish.wa.us

Sincerely,

Highland Water District Board of Commissioners