**YOUR WATER RATES AT WORK …**  
**BEST ROAD PIPELINE PROJECT**

An aerial view of Best Road looking north from Summers Drive toward Rudene Road. Rexville Grocery is in the foreground. Strider Construction was awarded a $1.6 million construction contract to install a 12-inch pipeline along a two mile stretch of Best Road. The new pipeline, which replaces a three-inch PVC pipe, will increase the quantity of water available for fire-protection and improve water pressure in the area during times of high demand. Work is anticipated to be complete by March 2019.

**7 Steps to Avoid Frozen Pipes:** How to Prevent Expensive Repair Bills This Winter Season

Frozen and burst water pipes can ruin your whole day. The best strategy in combating the cold winter months is a defensive one. By taking preventive measures to winterize your homes, you can not only save money but also save water and reduce energy usage.

1. Know what areas of your home—like basements, crawl spaces, unheated rooms, and outside walls—are most vulnerable to freezing.
2. Search for pipes which are uninsulated or pass through unheated areas. Wrap them with pipe insulation available at hardware stores.
3. If you have heat tape installed on exposed pipes, make sure the tape is still operational and installed according to manufacturer’s specifications. Inspect the tape for cracks or fraying.
4. Everyone in your household should know where the main water shut-off valve is. Check the shut-off valve annually to make sure it’s working properly. If a pipe freezes or bursts, shut off the water immediately.
5. Covering or wrapping your outdoor faucets is a simple job that can save you a big expense, both in water and plumbing fees.
**2019 Budget Proposal**

Rates reflect investment in maintaining assets

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**Cost Breakout**

- **Operating Costs, $63.41**
- **Capital Projects, $36.11**
- **Debt Service, $12.36**

*The cost breakout on a typical residential bimonthly bill of $112 that uses 6 ccf (4,488 gallons) per month. Water rates are billed in units of 100 cubic feet of water used (1 unit = 748 gallons).*

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**Field Trip Program Offered**

Many people take for granted the simple act of turning on a faucet and getting a cold glass of water. To teach the value of water, Skagit PUD offers school group tours of Judy Reservoir, the Water Treatment Plant and a visit to a stream within the watershed.

Transportation reimbursement is available for schools served by Skagit PUD water, and includes the bus driver fee plus mileage. The tour is recommended for students ages nine (4th-grade) and up. The program focuses on an exploration of water's role in our environment and society, with an emphasis on the importance of a safe and reliable water supply.

For more information, please visit SkagitPUD.org or call (360) 848-4477.

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**Frozen Pipes**

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6. Turn off and drain irrigation systems.

7. If no one will be home for an extended period of time during extreme winter weather, consider turning off your main valve altogether and hiring a plumber to drain your system. That way, if your furnace quits working, there will be no water in your pipes to freeze.

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**2019 Proposed Budget**

Skagit PUD’s budget process occurs in three stages: Proposed Budget, Work Sessions, and Adopted Budget. The Proposed Budget was submitted to the PUD’s Board of Commissioners at a public hearing on October 1.

During work sessions that follow the public hearing, Board members can direct further changes to the budget. The Adopted Budget incorporates any changes and is binding at the onset of the 2019 calendar year.

After the calendar year begins, new information or changing circumstances may arise that affect the budget. These changes are brought forward to the Board for approval and tracked as the Revised Budget. If mid-year changes are not needed, then expenditures will continue to be governed by the appropriations contained in the Adopted Budget.

The 2019 Proposed Budget incorporates an 8.5 percent rate increase presented in January 2016 as part of a multi-year financial forecast. The proposed rate increase would go into effect January 1, 2019. Total rate revenue is projected to be $24.8 million in 2019.

A copy of the 2019 Proposed Budget is available online at SkagitPUD.org.