Background and Project Purpose

Public Utility District No. 1 of Skagit County (District) operates the most expansive water system in Skagit County with over 26,000 metered services, serving approximately 70,000 people an average of nine million gallons of water per day. The majority of drinking water in Mount Vernon and the surrounding areas comes from the Judy Reservoir, a 1.45-billion-gallon reservoir located above the town of Clear Lake.

**Purpose:** The Little Mountain Waterline Extension Project is currently in the design phase. When constructed, it will ensure that residents, businesses and visitors will receive a reliable source of drinking water. The project will expand access in the area for landowners who currently do not have legal access to water. Construction is contingent on the District receiving state funding in future budgets.
Environmental Stewardship Is One Of Our Core Values

Water is an important limited resource that the Public Utility District No. 1 of Skagit County (District) must manage to ensure adequate water for human needs and the environment. There are many pressures on the drinking water system, including population growth, business needs and maintaining in-stream flows (protecting fish, wildlife and recreation).

The Skagit River and its tributaries support some of the healthiest salmon runs in the Northwest and form the only stream system in Washington to support all five species of Pacific Northwest salmon, as well as bull trout and steelhead.

Why this project?

The District supports regulations to protect in-stream flows that are necessary to maintain salmon spawning and rearing habitat. This project will supply water to meet current and future customer demands, while minimizing impacts to local salmon species.
The Little Mountain Waterline project will

- Support the Public Utility District No. 1 of Skagit County’s (District) vision of providing high quality water services at an affordable price by utilizing an innovative funding solution and being an outstanding regional leader.

- Offer water service to an area where there are no other options for legally available water to serve a home.

- Benefit the existing water system by strengthening the water system’s active service area, capacity and redundancy.

The District is designing a 4-mile waterline extending from the Eaglemont area west to the intersection of Little Mountain Road and East Blackburn Road, along Little Mountain Road and ending at the intersection of Little Mountain Road and Amick Road.

The waterline extension will connect two service areas of the District’s existing water system and allow for more efficient operation of the system by eliminating existing booster pump stations.
Some rural areas in the community have limited access to drinking water and cannot drill a private well for their potable water supply. The Public Utility District No. 1 of Skagit County’s (District) goal is to improve access to quality drinking water in the community.

Staff can help talk through how you could connect your property to the new waterline in the future if the construction of the waterline is funded. Meeting request forms are available to request a meeting with District staff.

Here is an example fee structure for future water service on Little Mountain Road that property owners could expect. Prices are subject to annual change and will most likely be different in the coming years.

**Example: 5/8” meter consuming 4 to 100 ccf per month**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Installation fee</th>
<th>System Development fee</th>
<th>Monthly flat fee</th>
<th>Tiered water usage rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$4,105</td>
<td>$4,905</td>
<td>$29.15</td>
<td>$5.06 per hundred cubic feet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example**: A single family home with a 5/8” meter would pay the installation fee ($4,105) and the system development fee ($4,105). Ongoing monthly costs would be $29.15 for the meter plus the tiered water usage rate (per hundred cubic feet).

Visit the District’s website for more information about water fees. You can schedule a meeting with staff to talk about your specific property:

About the Little Mountain Road Waterline Extension

Project schedule
Design engineers are finalizing the alignment and beginning design of the waterline extension. If construction money is secured in 2020, construction is estimated to begin in 2021.

Funding
Property owners will not need to pay for the design of the project. The Public Utility District No. 1 of Skagit County (District) received funding through the 2019 State Capital Budget to design water infrastructure to an unserved area near Mount Vernon. The District is planning to make another request to the State in 2020 for the remaining $4.7

Project schedule

**Design Phase**

- **August – December 2019:** Preliminary design
- **January 2020:** Submit additional funding applications for construction and future projects
- **July 2020 – December 2020:** Construction contracting process

**2019**

- **December 2019:** Submit permit applications (if possible)

**2020**

- **February 2020 – July 2020:** Final design and planning for project bidding and construction (pending funding)
- **July 2020:** Funding awarded

**2021**

- **2021:** Construction

**2022**

- **Note:** Pending future funding

October 2019
The Big Picture

In 2001, Washington State Department of (Ecology) established minimum instream flows on the Skagit River. These regulations preclude new uses of water including “permit-exempt” wells in most of the Skagit River watershed without an approved mitigation plan. Property owners wishing to build new homes in this affected area have few options for regularly available water.

Options include:
• Drilling a well with approved mitigation.
• Collecting and storing rainwater with an approved and properly engineered system.
• Connecting to a public water supply.

In 2015, the Public Utility District No. 1 of Skagit County (District) partnered with Ecology in researching potential waterline extensions that could provide a solution to this problem. The District completed further analysis of potential waterlines and selected three projects that appear to be the best options if state funding were provided for construction. Each of the three projects would need to be funded in their entirety.

The Little Mountain Road Waterline Extension is the first of the three projects; however, no construction funds have been made available from the state at this time. The three project locations are shown below.