



Thurston PUD Newsletter

We are committed to providing safe, reliable, affordable, and sustainable water services to our customers.

August 2026

Leadership Message

Public Hearings on the Proposed 2027 Budget and Rates, Fees, Charges, and Surcharges

By Julie Parker, Assistant General Manager

The District's Management Team and Board of Commissioners collaborate each year to develop a budget that reflects the District's priorities, operational needs, and planned projects. The budget serves as both a financial roadmap for the PUD and a communication tool that helps keep our customers informed about the District's plans and investments.



Julie Parker, Assistant General Manager

The Proposed 2027 Budget and Rates, Fees, Charges, and Surcharges will be posted on the PUD's website at www.thurstonpud.org by August 31, 2026. We encourage customers to review these files and submit any questions to our office.

The PUD Commissioners will hold two Public Hearings in September on the Proposed 2027 Budget and Rates, Fees, Charges, and Surcharges. The Public Hearings will be hybrid meetings, held in person at PUD Headquarters (1230 Ruddell Road SE, Lacey, WA 98503) and via the Zoom video conferencing platform. Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings either in person or virtually. Information on how to attend virtually is listed below.

Date	Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026	Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2026
Webinar ID	841 4741 6477	970 3278 6949
Start Time	5:00 p.m.	
URL	www.zoom.us/join	
Phone No.	(253) 215-8782 or (253) 205-0468	

At these hearings, PUD staff will deliver a presentation on the budget, and members of the public will have the opportunity to provide testimony on the Proposed 2027 Budget and Rates, Fees, Charges, and Surcharges. The Commissioners will review any comments received prior to considering adoption of the Proposed 2027 Budget and Rates, Fees, Charges, and Surcharges at the Commission meeting on September 22, 2026.

Members of the public are welcome to join these meetings either in-person or from a personal computer or a mobile device. If you wish to listen in by telephone (audio only), please use the information listed above to dial into the webinar.

(Continued on Page 2)

Thurston PUD Commissioners

District 1

Jim Campbell

District 2

Russell E. Olsen

District 3

Chris Stearns

In This Issue

- ◆ Tips for Watering Wisely—Page 2
- ◆ Tree Roots and Meter Boxes—What to Avoid—Page 3
- ◆ Groundbreaking Ceremony—Tanglewilde Thompson Place 600 Water System —Page 3
- ◆ 2026 Conservation Program—Page 4

Thurston PUD
1230 Ruddell Road SE
Lacey, Washington 98503
(360) 357-8783
Toll-Free: (866) 357-8783
Fax: (360) 357-1172
www.ThurstonPUD.org

Tips for Watering Wisely

Keeping your landscape healthy doesn't have to mean using more water. These tips can help you cut back on watering while using water more efficiently.

A little maintenance can make a big difference in how well your home's irrigation system performs. Before increasing your watering schedule, remember four key steps: **inspect, connect, direct, and select.**

- **Inspect:** Check your system for clogged, broken, or missing sprinkler heads.
- **Connect:** Look closely at the points where sprinkler heads attach to pipes or hoses. Pooling water or consistently wet areas may indicate a leak. Even a leak as small as the tip of a ballpoint pen (1/32 of an inch) can waste roughly 6,300 gallons of water each month.
- **Direct:** Make sure your sprinklers are aimed at your landscape—not the driveway, house, or sidewalk. Adjust heads so water reaches only the areas that need it.
- **Select:** An irrigation controller that isn't properly programmed can waste both water and money. Update your watering schedule regularly to match seasonal needs.



Remember, timing matters. No matter your landscape type, knowing how much water your plants actually need is essential. Smart watering practices reduce runoff and can lessen the need for pesticides and fertilizers.

Keeping the following tips in mind will help you maintain a healthy yard without wasting water or increasing costs.

- Avoid watering during the hottest part of the day, when much of the water evaporates before reaching plant roots.
- If water begins to pool, turn off your sprinkler to prevent overwatering and runoff. Watering too often or too heavily can drown plants, weaken root systems, and contribute to weed growth, disease, fungus, and stormwater runoff that carries fertilizers and pesticides into local waterways.
- Remember that most plants require less water than turfgrass.

By taking a few minutes to check your irrigation system and adjust your watering habits, you can keep your landscape thriving while conserving water. These simple steps help protect your plants, your budget, and our shared water resources.

Public Hearings on the Proposed 2027 Budget and Rates, Fees, Charges, and Surcharges

If you cannot attend the Public Hearings, we encourage you to submit written testimony to our office. Please direct any written testimony as follows:

By Mail:

Thurston PUD Board of Commissioners
1230 Ruddell Road SE
Lacey, WA 98503

By Email:

PUDCustomerService
@thurstonpud.org

By Fax:

(360) 357-1172

Please note: Written testimony must be submitted no later than 3:00 p.m. on September 22, 2026, or provided in person during the Commission meeting on September 22, 2026.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Customer Service Team at (360) 357-8783, toll-free at (866) 357-8783, or by email at PUDCustomerService@thurstonpud.org.

Tree Roots and Meter Boxes—What to Avoid



A meter box surrounded by tree roots.

Planning to plant a new tree or shrub? Taking a little time to choose the right location can help prevent problems down the road. One important consideration is avoiding underground utility infrastructure. As roots grow and spread, they can interfere with buried water lines and damage water meters.

Trees and shrubs should not be planted near water meters. Over time, roots naturally seek out moisture and can wrap around meter boxes, making them difficult to access for maintenance. In some cases, expanding roots can even crack water service lines, leading to costly repairs.

Keep in mind that while trees grow upward, their root systems often spread well beyond the canopy. Before selecting a tree, research its mature size and root growth habits. Choosing an appropriate planting location with plenty of clearance from underground utilities will help protect both your landscaping and the District's water infrastructure for years to come.

Groundbreaking Ceremony—Tanglewilde-Thompson Place 600 Water System Mainline Replacement Project

On Tuesday, June 23, 2026, Thurston PUD celebrated the beginning of construction at the Thompson Place neighborhood on the Tanglewilde-Thompson Place water system Mainline Replacement Project with a groundbreaking ceremony!

Project Background

- The Tanglewilde water system was created by Mr. Alvin Thompson to serve the Tanglewilde and Thompson Place homes, parks, businesses, and schools.
- The water system was sold to Thurston PUD in 1957.
- The system now provides water and fire flow service to approximately 2,000 homes and businesses in the Lacey Urban Growth Area.
- Approximately 80,000 lineal feet of mains are planned for replacement over next 10 years (funding dependent).
- Initial funding was obtained from the Public Works Assistance Account with an award through the **Public Works Board** and will be used for the replacement of approximately 30,000 lineal feet of mains.



Thurston PUD Staff, Commissioners, URAC Members, and Public Works Board Staff

Targeted Replacement Areas

This construction project will complete three projects, or targeted replacement areas. Thurston PUD is using the current funding for replacement in areas that will most benefit the public and which have the most frequent occurrence of mainline breaks and highest water leakage. This project will focus on the areas below:

- Replacement of the water mains
- Replacement of the valves, fire hydrants, and service meters in most areas will be replaced with radio meters
- New mains will be C900 PVC, 8-inch to 12-inch nominal

For more information on this project and others, visit <https://www.thurstonpud.org/projects.htm>.

PUD Office Closure—Labor Day

The PUD offices will be closed on Monday, September 7, 2026, in honor of Labor Day.

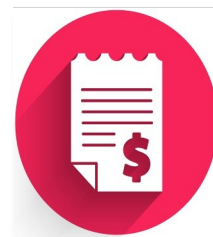
The PUD is closed for all major holidays, but we are always committed to our customers. Staff is available 24/7 for water emergencies. **If you experience a water service emergency, call us immediately at (360) 357-8783 or toll-free at (866) 357-8783 to report the issue. Calls received outside of normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday) are routed to our answering service and on-call staff.**



Don't Let Your Bill Surprise You!

Summer time is here, and the hotter it gets outside, the more water you use - this is a trend we've seen year after year when analyzing consumption and usage patterns.

Since your billing statement reflects consumption from anywhere between 10 and 60 days prior to the billing date, we encourage customers to make conservation a habit to avoid any surprises on their bill during warmer months. **Check the 'Meter Reading' portion of your bill statement for your specific consumption dates on your monthly statement.**



For information on how to conserve water, visit www.thurstonpud.org and click on the "Water Systems" link at the top of the web page.

2026 Conservation Program

Don't forget to take advantage of our 2026 Conservation Program to save water and money! This year we are offering the following:

Irrigation Help Line - Our Planning and Compliance Specialist, Blake Nylund, will take calls to help customers better understand their current system and ways they can conserve. If you have any questions about your irrigation system, please call Blake at (360) 357-8783 extension 126.

Residential Toilet Rebate - A \$50 rebate is available for qualifying high efficiency residential toilet replacements. Toilet fixtures must have been purchased in 2025 and must include the WaterSense logo. A rebate will be provided to the first 25 eligible applications. Applications are available on our website at www.thurstonpud.org/water-systems.htm.

Garden Watering Timers - Watering timers are available to the first 100 customers who request them - call our office at (866) 357-8783 or email PUDCustomerService@thurstonpud.org to request a device. The timer connects to your spigot and hose and provides timed watering, giving your lawn just the right amount of water. Using this timer saves water and money by preventing over-watering.

Advanced Meter Program (formerly the Smart Meter Program) - Advanced, cellular meters are offered to customers that want direct access to their water consumption data. Customers are billed \$50 for the meter itself (valued at \$270), then an additional \$3 per month for the ongoing fee for the online program. Customers will gain access to an online dashboard, accessible by computer or on a mobile device, to view consumption, leak alerts, or tips on conserving water. Applications are available on our website by clicking on "Advanced Meter Program" at www.thurstonpud.org/water-systems.htm.



For more conservation tips, and to access the rebate and advanced meter applications, visit our website at www.thurstonpud.org/water-systems.htm.