

SNO-KING WATER-SEWER DISTRICT COALITION 2023 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Who we are: Sno-King Water-Sewer Coalition consists of seven water and sewer districts within King and Snohomish Counties serving over 400,000 people. The Coalition is comprised of Alderwood Water & Wastewater District, Sammamish Plateau Water, Woodinville Water District, Cross Valley Water District, Olympic View Water and Sewer District, Mukilteo Water and Wastewater District, and Coal Creek Utility District.

Governed under Title 57 RCW, these districts operate and maintain critical infrastructure that is essential to public health, environmental safety, and business growth. Coalition members are committed to providing safe, dependable, and affordable drinking water and sewer service to homes, businesses, and industry. We engage in local and regional water supply and sewer treatment planning and inter-system coordination with cities, counties, tribes, and other special purpose districts.

Purpose/Goal of Sno-King: The purpose and goal of Sno-King is to support state legislation and regulations that assist the member water and sewer districts in their mission in an equitable and environmentally sensitive way.

Legislative Agenda: Following are the top 2023 legislative and regulatory priorities of Sno-King:

1. Support long-term protection of water sources, including surface and wellfield water from pollution by storm water or reclaimed water.
2. Obtain Legislative approval of limitations on utility taxes and fees imposed by cities and counties on Title 57 water and sewer districts.
3. Oppose efforts to restrict the ability of utility providers to interrupt service for nonpayment of bills.
4. Oppose efforts to impose any charge or fee for the use by water and sewer utilities of public roads or rights- of-way.
5. Support legislative funding of the Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA). Oppose continued diversion of revenues intended for funding of the Account.
6. Work to ensure that Nutrient regulations are designed to address actual water quality issues in Puget Sound, which required improvements will have a noticeable effect on the stated problems, and that the rate impacts for customers are reasonable in comparison to the resulting benefits.
7. Oppose efforts to divert existing water rights from municipal water providers.
8. Work with water interests and agencies to ensure that impacts of water reclamation efforts on water providers are fully considered.
9. Oppose efforts to pass the cost of water reclamation efforts on to water users, either directly or indirectly.
10. Pass legislation to ensure that installation of ductile iron water pipes does not require payment of plumber wages.

Additional issues to support and/or monitored:

1. Promote and support efforts to reduce chemicals and other substances originating in pharmaceuticals and personal care products (cosmetics, etc.) from entering the wastewater collection system.
2. Opposes legislation that adds complexity to billing processes, such as the previous Transparency of Local Taxing Districts bill which mandates taxing information be placed on utility bills.
3. Support rules and/or legislation that insures the distribution and use of reclaimed water within a district's service area requires a mutually agreed upon agreement between the district and entity providing any amount of reclaimed water for use.

Contact Information:

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- Woodinville Water District: Patrick Sorensen, General Manager, psorensen@woodinvillewater.com
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- Mukilteo Water and Wastewater District: Dave Barnes, General Manager dbarnes@mukilteowwd.org
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