



Bear Creek Water and Sanitation District Newsletter – April 2026

Dear Bear Creek Water and Sanitation District (BCWSD) Customers:

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find your sanitary sewer bill for the first quarter of 2026. The annual bill, for sanitary sewer charges, has been divided into fourths - billed in April, July, October, and January.

If you prefer to pay for the entire year, please multiply this bill by four.

There **WILL NOT** be a sewer rate increase on the BCWSD sewer billing for 2026 since sewer billing amounts are sufficient to cover the O&M expenses for the BCWSD sewage collection system and the sewage treatment charges paid to Metro Water Recovery.

As part of the annual budget process, BCWSD reviews the sewer rates, and the water surcharge amount each year with consideration of the rising costs of operations, maintenance and replacement of the infrastructure in order to determine if a rate increase is necessary.

If you have questions about your sanitary sewer bill, please contact the office by phone at **303-986-3442** during normal business hours, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or by e-mail.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR SANITARY SEWER BILL BY EMAIL?

To request a paperless sanitary sewer bill (E-Bill) Please send an email to: bearcreekwater@bearcreekwater.org

Please include in your email:

Sewer Account Number, Name, Property Address, Email Address and Phone Number

Electronic payments can be made by using the colorado.gov payment portal. A link to the payment portal can be found on the District website at www.bearcreekwater.org.

Beware of Phishing Scams

The District has identified the potential for a phishing scam that could target our customers. You could receive an email that looks like it is from Bear Creek Water and Sanitation District asking you to click on a link that takes users to what appears to be from BCWSD, but the site could be a fake intended to collect payment or personal information. Please be aware Bear Creek Water and Sanitation District will never send an email asking you to provide any type of payment or personal information. Online payments should be made by going directly to the **Colorado.gov payment portal** which is accessible from Bear Creek Water and Sanitation District's website.

Please Help Stop Indoor Water Leaks

Household leaks can waste nearly 1 trillion gallons of water a year nationwide, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Finding and eliminating indoor water leaks in your home saves water and money. Every drop counts!

Our drinking water comes from mountain snowpack, which means our water supply depends on what Mother Nature provides and how much we all use. Do your part to keep healthy water levels in our storage reservoirs by finding and eliminating indoor water leaks — ultimately preventing water waste and saving you money both on your water and your sanitary sewer bills.

- Check your toilet for leaks. Put a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait 30 minutes to see if the color appears in the bowl. If it does, you may have a leaking flapper valve.
- Make sure the sinks in the kitchen and bathroom are not dripping. Don't forget to open the cabinet doors and check the hot and cold supply lines for leaks.
- Think about replacing older toilets with new, efficient WaterSense-labeled models, which use less water without sacrificing performance.

There will be an increase in the water surcharge amount for 2026. BCWSD is a water distributor of Denver Water under a Read and Bill Service Agreement. The District will now begin to collect a surcharge of \$8.00 per single-family residential equivalent (SFRE) on the Denver Water billing to contribute towards the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) of the water distribution lines owned by the District.

If you have a question or concern about your water bill, please contact the Denver Water Customer Care Team at 303-893-2444, Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Information about Denver Water rates can be found on the Denver Water website at www.denverwater.org. If you have a question about the water surcharge, please contact the BCWSD office at 303-986-3442.

Denver Water's Outdoor Watering Rules will go into effect on May 1, 2026.

Please visit the Denver Water website at www.denverwater.org to check for watering schedules and restrictions.

Thank you for conserving water.

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

2025 Capital Improvement Projects

Bear Creek Greenbelt Sewer Rehab Project

The District spent \$305,990 to rehabilitate 4,700 feet of 15" outfall sewer line along the Bear Creek Greenbelt just west of Wadsworth.

Investigation of 16/18" Water Transmission Mains within the Bear Creek Water and Sanitation District

District Engineers finished an exploratory analysis of the condition of some of the 16 and 18" transmission mains that run along the Hampden Frontage Road and W. Dartmouth Avenue. District Engineers identified five locations to visually assess the pipe and fittings. The complete analysis included soil and electrolysis investigations. The pipes were found to be in good condition and the BCWSD will continue to monitor the condition of the pipe.

We continue to prioritize both water and sewer segments throughout the District and build construction cost estimates for the multi-year replacement program. We're looking at possibly alternating areas of the district for construction, if it's feasible based on the age, material, and condition of each ranking. The idea is to avoid being in the area with several pipe replacement needs for multiple years and rotate throughout the district.

The District is moving forward with plans to begin replacing and rehabbing old water and sewer mains beginning in 2026 and will be notifying affected customers as far in advance as we possibly can.

Risk Mitigation Plan

BCWSD Engineers have prepared a risk analysis/wildfire preparation study of the District owned water distribution system's interplay between zones in case the primary water feeds would become disabled due to an emergency. This information will be used to develop an emergency plan which includes the consideration of assistance from or to neighboring water Districts, so that the BCWSD could assist West Metro Fire Department in case of a wildfire in the BCWSD area. The District will be bringing Denver Water for consultation and discussions on various fire related scenarios in order to enhance cooperation between all interested parties. As of this time, the District has held meetings with Denver Water and is examining all possible scenarios as well as implementation protocols.

Bear Creek Water and Sanitation District Board Meetings

Monthly Board meetings are being held in person (with a remote option) on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the District Office located at 2517 South Flower Street. If you cannot attend a Board Meeting in person, you can make arrangements with the District Manager to attend meetings remotely, using the Zoom Meeting application.

For additional information about the Bear Creek Water and Sanitation District, please visit the website at www.bearcreekwater.org. You can also contact the District office by phone at 303-986-3442 during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or by email at bearcreekwater@bearcreekwater.org.

Thank you for conserving water.

Sincerely, Andrew George, District Manager, Bear Creek Water and Sanitation District

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