

January 29, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

In January 2008 Chelan County adopted a storm water utility to manage stormwater needs in developing areas around Wenatchee. All developed properties containing impervious surfaces (impervious surface includes rooftops and paved areas) are charged a service fee. The service area does not include properties within the city of Wenatchee. This letter is to inform you that either because your parcel has new impervious surface, property improvements added additional impervious surface, or because of an update to our database, you have been assessed a service fee.

Several factors influenced the establishment of the Stormwater Utility. In the past, Chelan County has been managing stormwater infrastructure needs in a reactionary way, with funding only to address problems when they arose. There was no way to fund the development and management of a proactive system. Further, the Urban Growth Area of Wenatchee now falls under the Federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II requirements which require a specific set of actions to meet certain Clean Water Act mandates. In February of 2007, the Washington State Department of Ecology issued the Eastern Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit to Chelan County. This permit required the County to develop and implement a stormwater program with the goal of reducing the amount of pollution in stormwater.

The objective of the Surface and Storm Water Management Utility is to minimize property damage; to promote and protect public health, safety and welfare; to minimize water quantity impacts; to minimize water quality degradation by preventing siltation, contamination and erosion of the county's waterways; to protect aquifers; to insure the safety of county roads and rights-of-way; and to assure compliance with federal and state stormwater runoff quality requirements as specified in the Clean Water Act, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase II regulations, and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

This fee is billed on a yearly basis and property owners will receive an invoice from the Chelan County Treasurer Office in February. Single-family residences pay a uniform rate of \$66 per year. All other developed properties pay a multiple of this rate based on their parcel's measured impervious surface. This includes multi-residential dwellings such as condominiums and apartment complexes. The estimated rate for commercial properties are calculated by taking the measured impervious surface area and dividing that number by the Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) value (1 ERU = 4,600 square feet of impervious coverage for the average single-family residence within the service area). For example, if you have 26,000 sq. ft. of impervious surfaces, the annual service charge would be $26,000/4,600 = 5.65$ ERUs or 6 ERUs (rounded to the nearest ERU) times \$66 = \$396.00 per month without any credits against the fee.

To learn more about the program, we encourage you to visit the County's Web Site at www.co.chelan.wa.us/pw/pw_main.htm