

Water Code Amendments

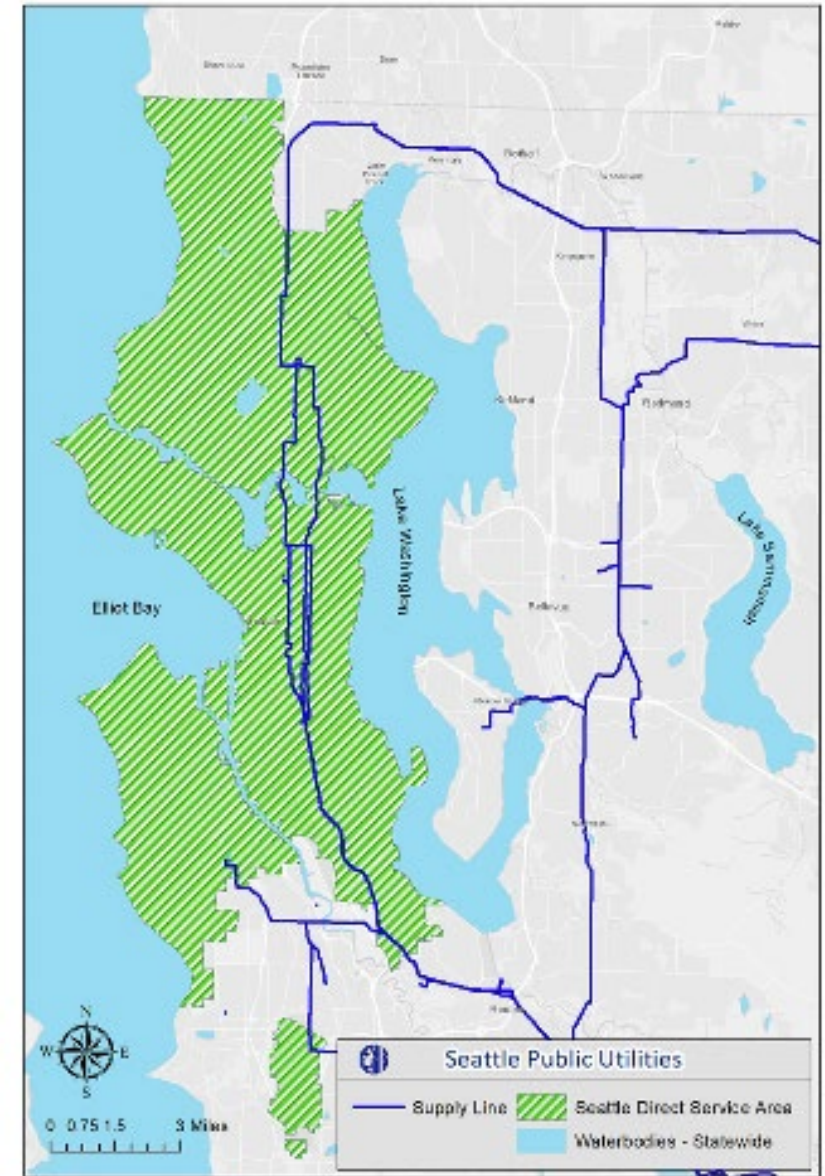
SMC 21.04/SMC 21.12

December 2, 2020



Overview

- Portions of the Water Code were originally adopted in 1893 and 1935.
- This ordinance will revise outdated and inconsistent terminology, practices, and requirements providing clarity for the public and SPU staff.
- This applies to all customers within SPU's Direct Water Service Area, includes:
 - Shoreline, Burien, Renton, Lake Forest Park, Parts of unincorporated King County



Outdated Requirements and Terminology

No.	SMC Reference	Change Needed	Rationale	Anticipated Impact to Customers
1	21.04.025 - Domestic connection requirements. (<i>NEW SECTION</i>)	Add new section to disallow water service from permit- exempt wells.	Strengthen requirement for a direct connection to SPU infrastructure and not allow drinking water wells.	None. We have had one request for a domestic water well in over ten years.
2	21.04.060 B. - Connection—Where permanent structure erected—Premises not abutting street with water main— Limitations. Permanent structures and relocating water connections	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify water main extension requirements when parcels have frontage on multiple rights-of-way. Delete section allowing temporary connections. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Allow unit lot subdivisions which front multiple streets to connect to one existing water main and not build a second water main in the other street. Temporary services were discontinued in 2003. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Positive to the development community. None.





No.	SMC Reference	Change Needed	Rationale	Anticipated Impact to Customers
3	21.04.080 - Separate service connections for each house— Exceptions.	Clean-up language. SMC conflicts with SPU’s current policy.	SPU allows one domestic water meter per parcel. The type of structure is irrelevant.	None. This is consistent with SPU practice for decades.
4	21.04.150 - Unused connections.	Clarify requirements for an “inactive service”.	Remove the 15-year non-use timeframe and base the viability of a water service on the material type and condition.	Small percentage of development community impacted.
5	21.04.210 - Discontinuance of service— ((Reinstallation application— Temporary service.))	Clarify SPU will require a water service retirement rather than a water meter removal in most cases.	When meters are removed, we experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water theft • Undetected water leaks • Deterioration of the water service piping 	Small percentage of property owners and the development community impacted.



No.	SMC Reference	Change Needed	Rationale	Anticipated Impact to Customers
6	21.04.300 – City right to shut off water	Remove “at any time, without notice” which refers to the City shutting off water supply.	Unless an emergency, there is typically notice to the customer that the water supply will be shut off.	None. Consistent with practice.
7	21.04.530 – Use of fire hydrants.	Removing outdated process from the Ordinance.	The current process is outlined in WTR-460.1 - Use of Hydrants by Others (Directors Rule).	None. Consistent with practice.
8	21.04.580 – Violation Penalty.	Update penalty for violating SMC 21.04 established in 1935.	The existing amount is \$100. The City Attorney’s Office recommended using the current standard for gross misdemeanor.	None. This fine is not regularly applied.
9	21.12.020 - Notice of cut shut off of water supply— Publication in official newspaper.	Removing outdated process and communication method from the Ordinance.	Currently customers are notified via door tags.	None. Consistent with practice.

