

# Definitions

---

**Abandoned Water Service** – A water service that for a period of 10 or more consecutive years: has been disconnected, whose account has been terminated, meter has been removed, or that has shown no water use.

**Applicant** - Any individual person, firm, or organization who requests service(s) from the District. Once the work applied for is complete, the Applicant normally transitions to being a Customer.

**Backflow** – The undesirable reversal of flow of water or other substances through a cross-connection into the public water system or consumer’s potable water system.

**Commission** – The Board of Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Skagit County, Washington.

**Connection** – A physical attachment to the District’s water system for the purpose of allowing water service.

**Consumption Charge** – A charge levied by the District for water usage under one of the District’s rate schedules.

**Critical Areas** – Areas defined by the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan as Critical Areas under the Growth Management Act.

**Cross Connection** - Any actual or potential physical connection between a public water system or the consumer’s water system and any source of non-potable liquid, solid, or gas that could contaminate the potable water supply by backflow.

**Customer** – Any individual person, firm, or organization that purchases water; or is legally responsible for the purchase or payment for water from the District.

**CWSP** – Skagit County Coordinated Water System Plan

**Deduct Service** – Water service for the sole purpose of determining the amount of water not delivered to the sanitary sewer from the Customer’s premises.

**Detector Check Meter** – A meter that registers usage on a fire service, but does not measure the quantity of usage (e.g. used to register use of a customer’s fire protection system)

**Disconnection of Service** – Turn-off of an existing water service by the District for failure of a Customer to meet one or more of the District’s terms of service.

**District** - Public Utility District No. 1 of Skagit County

**DOH** – Washington State Department of Health

**Double Check Detector Meter** – A water meter, typically on a fire sprinkler system, that registers minor usage of water, but not the total quantity of use (during a fire suppression event) through a Customer’s fire protection system.

**Extension** – Additions to the District’s water mains and/or related distribution facilities, for the purpose of providing water service at properties not previously served by a District-owned water main.

**General Manager** – The General Manager of Public Utility District #1 of Skagit County

**Gridding** – Installation of water mains connecting to each other from different directions, for the purpose of allowing redundancy in the event of shutting down a main; improving fire flows or other hydraulic conditions; etc.

**Group A Water System** – A Group A water system is defined in WAC 246-290-020 as a public water system: with 15 or more service connections used by year-round residents for 180 or more days within a calendar year, regardless of the number of people; or regularly serving at least 25 year-round (i.e. more than 180 days per year) residents, or that provides service opportunity to 25 or more of the same nonresidential people for 180 or more days within a calendar year, or that serves 25 or more different people each day for 60 or more days within a calendar year, or that serves 25 or more of the same people each day for 60 or more days but less than 180 days within a calendar year, or that serves 1,000 or more people for two consecutive days within a calendar year. (See Section 7.2.1)

**Group B Water System** – A Group B water system is defined in WAC 246-290-020 as a public water system that does not meet the definition of a Group A water system. (See Section 7.2.2)

**Installation Charge** – The charge levied by the District and payable by an Applicant for installing all or a portion of that Applicant’s water service from the distribution main to the Applicant’s private water service line.

**Irrigation Meter** – A meter installed solely for the purpose of metering irrigation water to a Customer’s premises.

**Latecomers’ Agreement** – A written agreement providing for reimbursement of a portion of the costs of an extension to the financier of the extension, repaid by new Applicants fronting and connecting to the extension, repaid via the District.

**Latecomer’s Fee** – A reimbursement, paid by an Applicant for a new water service, of a portion of the costs of an extension to the financier of that extension, usually based on the front footage of the Applicant’s property.

**Limited Access Lot** – A parcel of land that does not front a road, but gains access to that road by means of an easement over adjacent contiguous lots that do front the road.

**LUD** – Local Utility District

**Meter Charge** – A charge levied by the District on a regular basis (e.g. monthly or bimonthly) for water service during a particular time period, irrespective of consumption during the time period covered.

**Meter Installation Charge** – See Connection Charge

**Point of Delivery** – That point where the customer’s water pipe is connected to the District’s distribution system or transmission system (typically at the District’s meter).

**Refund Agreement** – See Latecomer’s Agreement

**Rural** – Rural lands are all lands which are not within an urban growth area and are not designated as natural resource lands having long term commercial significance for production of agricultural products, timber, or the extraction of minerals.

**Satellite Management Agency (SMA)** – A person or entity that is approved by DOH to own or operate more than one public water system on a regional or county-wide basis, without the necessity for physical interconnection between such systems.

**Satellite Water System (SWS)** – A water system which is owned, operated, and/or otherwise served by the District and which has a separate water supply not served regularly from the District’s primary source, transmission and distribution network.

**Seasonal Recreation Lot** – A parcel of land that is used principally for recreational purposes and principally by recreational vehicles during a limited number of months per year.

**SEPA** – State Environmental Policy Act

**Service Activation Charge** – A charge for the establishment and/or setup of an account.

**Service Deposit** – A deposit by an Applicant when opening a new water service account with the District.

**Skagit County Comprehensive Plan** – The current edition of Skagit County’s comprehensive plan prepared under applicable state law and adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Skagit County.

**System Development Fee** – A charge levied by the District on an Applicant, representing the Applicant’s proportional share of investment in capital facilities that have broad application to the District’s water system.

**Temporary Water Service** – Metered water service provided for use at a specified site on a short-term, temporary basis (Sec. 2.7.1).

**Termination of Service** – Complete cessation of water service to a Customer at a specific location by the District, normally accompanied by closing of the Customer’s account for that water service.

**Urban** – An urban growth area is an area within which urban growth shall be encouraged and outside of which growth can occur only if it is not urban in nature. The urban growth area is supplied with urban governmental services, and an urban density is targeted to be equal to or higher than four dwelling units per one acre.

**Water Service** – (1) The availability of District-supplied water at a point of delivery, irrespective of whether the customer actually uses District-supplied water, or  
(2) a physical metered connection to the District’s water system for the purpose of receiving water.  
(3) All pipe and materials, including but not limited to, the tapping saddle, corporation stop, water service piping, meter yoke, meter and meter box connected to the District’s distribution main extending to a point of delivery at or on the customer’s property where the customer’s water service line is connected to the outlet side of the District’s water meter in the meter box.

**Water Service Installation, Types One through Six** – Methods and configurations by which an Applicant may receive water service from the District.

**Water Service, Fire Protection** – A water service installation that is dedicated to the fire suppression piping of a facility. A “fire protection water service” is prohibited from also providing potable domestic water service.

**Water Service, Irrigation** – See Irrigation Service.

**Watershed** – A geographic area that supplies surface water runoff or ground water that feeds any of the District’s water sources.

**Water System Plan** – The most up-to-date edition of the District’s comprehensive water system plan which has been approved by the Washington State Department of Health; prepared under Washington Administrative Code Chapter 246-290 or 246-291; and describing the District’s water system, operations, and future needs.

**Wholesale Water Service** – Water service provided to any person, firm, government, or organization for the purpose of resale to that entity’s own water Customers.