

July 15, 2022

Stevenson City Council
c/o Leanna Kinley - City Administrator
7121 E. Loop Rd.
Stevenson, WA 98648

RE: Request for Water and Sewer Charge Abatement – June 2022 Billing

Dear Stevenson City Council:

As the General Manager for Skamania Lodge and Resort, I am writing the Council to request a onetime water leak variance for June 2022 as well as waiver of the associated sewer charges.

According to the June utility bill, the City billed the Lodge for \$12,957.53 in water consumption; \$13,166.40 in sewer charges and \$14,685.20 in sewer consumption. The total charges were \$45,395.53. In May, the total utility charges were \$25,846.85 and \$23,751.17 in April. Obviously, the June charges are double the prior months and not in line with the traditional usage of water and sewer services by the Lodge.

On June 24, the Lodge discovered a leak from an abandoned water line adjacent to the golf cart barn. The Engineering Department quickly reacted and repaired the leak on June 27. The Lodge determined the water from the leak was draining into the nearby storm drain and not into the City's sewer system.

The Lodge prides itself on having quick responses in such situations. As you can see, the Lodge reacted quickly to repair the leak and avoid additional loss of water into the storm drain. The Lodge has endeavored to ensure there are no other undetected leaks. Based on the Lodge's diligence and quick reaction, the Lodge is requesting a onetime variance of a portion of the water consumption charge on the June bill. Based on the two prior months, the Lodge's water consumption average was \$3,302.91. Due to the undetected leak, the water consumption charge is \$9,654.61 higher than a typical month.

While the Lodge understands the Council typically credits back water customer a maximum of \$1,000.00 based on similar fact situations, the Lodge is asking for a one time waiver of \$5,000 for the water consumption charge on the June bill. The Lodge is willing to remit payment for the additional \$4,654.61 in water loss due to the leak. The Lodge hopes the Council recognizes the impact on the Lodge as opposed to a typical homeowner.

In addition to the water variance, since the water discharged into the storm drain and not into the City's sewer system, the water did not create any additional sewer related charges. The average sewer consumption charge to the Lodge is \$3,500 a month. The June bill notes a sewer consumption charge of \$14,685.20. The Lodge is requesting a waiver of \$11,185.20 in sewer consumption charges on the June billing based on the fact the water consumption did not actually enter the City sewer system.

Accordingly, the Lodge would ask the Council to waive \$5,000 in water consumption fees and \$11,185.20 in sewer consumption from the June billing. The Lodge continues to work with the City and remain a steward of the City resources.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kara Owen
General Manager – Skamania Lodge and Resort