

ATTACHMENT A

Hopkins Drainage Ditch
District #2 in Thurston County
(mail only address)
10330 Tilley Road S.
Olympia, WA 98512

CITY OF TUMWATER
555 ISRAEL RD SW
TUMWATER, WA 98501

Tax Parcel #s:
69460000026
69460000027

June 2, 2022

From:
Commissioners
Hopkins Drainage Ditch District #2 in Thurston County
(mail only address)
10330 Tilley Road S., Olympia, WA 98512
email: commissioners@hopkinsdrainageditch.us
website: <https://hopkinsdrainageditch.us>
Cell: (360) 951-1046

Dear Landowner,

This is your **official “Notice of hearing”** from the **Hopkins Drainage Ditch District #2 in Thurston County as required by RCW 85.32.060.**

In accordance, you are being notified that:

(1) The board has tentatively determined that the property of the owner or reputed owner named is receiving and will receive service and benefit from the facilities of the **“Hopkins Drainage Ditch District #2 in Thurston County”**;

(2) The board has caused a tentative roll of the properties with any improvements thereon which are receiving and will receive service and benefit to be filed with it; and that the roll shows a base of valuation thereon for the properties against which annual dollar rates will be levied and collected in the same manner as general taxes to pay the fair value of the benefit and service received and to be received by the property through use of the facilities of the **“Hopkins Drainage Ditch District #2 in Thurston County”**, and to pay the annual cost of operation, development, and maintenance of the district and its facilities;

(3) On **July 9th @ 10:00 at the South Union Grange Hall**
10030 Tilley Road South (State Highway 121)
Olympia, WA 98512,

the board will give consideration to the facts and the roll, will hear all objections filed, will review the roll and alter, modify, or change the same consistent with facts established and with equity and fair dealing concerning the properties involved to the end that just levies will be made for service and benefits received and to be received against each property for the purposes mentioned; and at the hearing or continuance thereof, it will adopt the roll in final form and certify and file a copy thereof with the assessor and treasurer of the county wherein the property is located; and will cause annual millage to be levied against such established valuations for the purposes stated;

(4) All persons desiring to object to the proceedings, to the proposed base valuations, or to any other thing or matter in connection with the proceedings, must file written objections with the board stating clearly the basis of the objection before the time of the hearing, or all objections will be deemed waived.

This action is being undertaken because of the following:

1. In the first week of January 2022 the “Hopkins Drainage Ditch District #2 in Thurston County” experienced the worst flooding in recent history (going back at least 45 years) in the area upstream of Tilley Road/State Highway 121. (Recorded in Resolutions 2022-0003 through 2022-0005 dated 2/19/2022)
2. “Hopkins Drainage Ditch District #2 in Thurston County” approached the City of Tumwater several times to ask for assistance, including a 30-day notification and request prior to this action, requesting that the City shield their citizens from this additional taxation by using some of the demonstrated \$4.4-Million “Stormwater Fund Surplus”, but was rebuffed.

Additionally:

1. "Hopkins Drainage Ditch District #2 in Thurston County" has also approached Thurston County Stormwater recently for the \$259,217.70 in "Stormwater Taxes" paid by our Landowners and is working toward a resolution with the County Commissioners.
 - a. Additionally, in an effort to recover the use of these "Stormwater Tax Fund" monies, "Hopkins Drainage Ditch District #2 in Thurston County" introduced legislation in the 2022 Session, but due to other pressing legislation, our Bills did not receive passage.
2. The "Hopkins Drainage Ditch District #2 in Thurston County" is also increasing the "Tax Levy Rate" on the existing Landowners/Tax Payers to increase "Maintenance Funding" going forward, HOWEVER;
 - a. The Ditch District has the expectation, by language in RCW 85.06.220 and 230 which in summary say that:

IF a City is acting as a drainage district (which in effect the City of Tumwater is, and is allowing or facilitating their stormwater to be directed downstream), then

"All costs for the enlarging or improving of said lower system that may be required shall be assessed to the landowners in the upper district according to the benefits to be derived from the construction of said entire system, and no additional cost shall be thrown upon the lower district"

The "**85.32 Hearing**" is in accordance with Hopkins Drainage Ditch District Resolutions 2022-0003 thru 2022-0006 and is needed to allow the Ditch District take advantage of our rights as stated in **RCW 85.32.100**:

"...in many instances, properties lying outside of the territorial limits of such districts, have been and are being developed in such a manner that waters therefrom, through artificial rather than natural processes, are accumulated and discharged for outlet upon lands within such districts, and the facilities of such district are used without charge to furnish service and benefit to such lands. To furnish remedy for such situations where they are found to exist the state declares that it has an interest therein and this chapter is passed."

This effort seeks to collect between \$360,000 and \$380,000 initially to re-establish and improve the Ditch in order to allow the Ditch (especially the headwaters, from 93rd Ave SE to Tilley Road) to handle the added flow of stormwater being contributed to the Ditch District by the 460 Parcels within the City of Tumwater boundaries, and add those contiguous parcels between 93rd Ave SE and the actual first Parcel that is currently on the Roles of the Ditch District. After this initial levy, a "Maintenance Amount" of 10% of the initial amount will be levied on an annual basis to assist in the Maintenance of the Drainage Facilities of the District.

Sincerely,

Mat Jackmond, Chairperson
Hopkins Drainage Ditch District #2 in Thurston County