



# Welcome to St. Lucie West Services District

## CONTACT INFORMATION

450 SW Utility Drive, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986  
 Tel #: (772) 340-0220  
 Business Hours: (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)  
 After hours emergency call (772) 340-0220 dial (1)  
 to speak with utilities on-call staff  
 Fax #: (772) 871-5771  
 Email: [customerservice@slwsd.org](mailto:customerservice@slwsd.org)  
 Website: [www.slwsd.org](http://www.slwsd.org)

## SLWSD STAFF ONLY

Irrigation schedule (2 days a week)

MON TUE WED THURS FRI

Irrigation times for your location

\_\_\_\_\_ A.M. P.M. to \_\_\_\_\_ A.M. P.M.

The St. Lucie West Services District “SLWSD” is a legal entity and public body created pursuant to Chapter 190, Florida Statutes organized as a Community Development District within the boundaries of the City of Port St. Lucie. The District serves approximately 7,000 locations with a population of about 20,000.

The following are services that SLWSD supplies to the residents within St. Lucie West. SLWSD has an on-call staff available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year that provides a free service visit, if needed, for any utility-related issues.

### Water and Wastewater

The Water Treatment Plant’s Reverse Osmosis System removes virtually all water impurities and will treat up to 3.4 million gallons of water per day. **Important Notice:** SLWSD tests the drinking water in accordance with FDEP requirements. Independent companies may send out mailing stating the water may not be safe to drink. Unless the mailing includes SLWSD, please ignore these mailings. If questions arise about these mailings, call (772) 340-0220. The Wastewater Treatment Plant is an activated sludge facility which treats up to 2.13 mgd. Modified Lutzak-Ettinger is the primary treatment of wastewater, 100% is used for irrigation reuse.

### Irrigation

The irrigation water comes from the retention ponds which are made of 55% storm water and 45% reclaimed water. This water is “Non-Potable” and should not be used for drinking. The irrigation service is not metered, and we charge according to property type. The residential irrigation water base facility charges are classified as single family or multifamily. The commercial charges are by acre or per common area irrigated. Each location must abide by the assigned irrigation schedule or will be subject to warnings and/or penalties.

**Residential:** The irrigation schedule is on your timer. It is the responsibility of each homeowner to ensure that time clocks are set and maintained properly. Equipment failure will not be viewed as an excuse for watering outside of designated times. Multi- zoned systems of 2 zones or less will be allowed to run for 15 minutes for each zone. Customers with 3 or more zones should call the District office at 340-0220 to request your system be evaluated.

**Maintenance of systems:** All customers and contractors have 10 minutes per zone to perform appropriate maintenance one time per week. During maintenance or repairs there must be someone outside in attendance while the system is being worked on. If your system is left on and no individual is present, you will receive a warning or a penalty.

When repairs are the customer's responsibility, the customer must contact their HOA and/or irrigation "IQ" company. HOA/IQ company shall contact the District's office with the specific information and must contact the District when IQ is fixed for the District to turn back on the irrigation valves. When repairs are part of an agreement with the District, the District is responsible for the repairs and will make the IQ system operational as soon as possible.

#### Backflow Prevention Assembly Testing Program

Each connection to our Drinking Water System is required by FDEP to have a backflow prevention device. These devices are typically found near the water meter and are tested annually by SLWSD. Testing occurs between October 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Each device tested is billed, once per year, to the account holder.

#### Retention Ponds (aka Lakes)

With the exception of Lakes Charles, fishing and boating are not allowed in District owned retention ponds. Fish are stocked by the District within the ponds for purposes of biological control of midge flies and other pests.

The District has an Aquatic Team that maintains the retention ponds by spraying and removing invasive exotic plants such as water hyacinth, hydrilla and torpedo grass. The yearly "lakes" schedule is on our website [www.slwsd.org](http://www.slwsd.org) under Resources\SLWSD News or you may contact the Aquatic Manager at (772) 340-0220 ext.109.

#### Preserves

The District is responsible for the maintenance of the preserves and the removal of invasive exotic plants. The Exotic Plant Removal Team continually work throughout St. Lucie West to try and maintain invasive plants under control. If questions you may contact the Assistant Public Works Director at (772) 340-0220 ext. 126.

#### Stormwater

The St. Lucie West Storm Water System currently has 128 storm water retention ponds totaling 650 surface acres of water. Within the 7 major drainage basins there are 25 smaller basins. The 25 individual basins range in size from 19 acres to 1,000 acres.

Currently the District discharges water into the City of Port St. Lucie conveyance canals. By permit with So Florida Water Management District and the City of Port St. Lucie, the St Lucie West Services District can only lower the external gates to one foot below control depending on the amount of rain expected and the downstream elevations in City's system. All gates are required to be closed when the one foot below control has been achieved.

If questions you may contact the Stormwater Manager at (772) 340-0220 ext. 124.

## **BILLING INFORMATION**

### **Deposits**

Every account requires a deposit based on the meter size and/or service for each location. The deposit is neither negotiable nor transferable. There is a 24-hour wait or next business day to unlock your meter. The deposit is held for a minimum of two years (24 months) and is refunded if the customer has paid for one full year with no penalties, lock offs, nor returned payments. The deposits are placed in an interest-bearing account with all interest to be reinvested in the operation and maintenance costs of the water and sewer system, in order to offset costs of providing service.

### **Payments / Due Dates**

Statements are mailed monthly around the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month and are due 20 calendar days from the bill date by 4:00pm each month even if someone lives at the location or not. (Find the schedule of rates and fees within the customer service tab on [www.slwsd.org](http://www.slwsd.org)) For your convenience we have a 24-hour drop box located outside our office gate. Payments received after the Due Date will be subject to a penalty. Office staff picks up payments from drop boxes a few times each day except for weekends and SLWSD holidays. (see holiday schedule within the resources tab on [www.slwsd.org](http://www.slwsd.org))

### **Payment methods:**

- **Checks, money orders, or cashier's check:** *(In person or by mail) No processing fee.*
- **Bank drafts:** (Automatic drafts each month on the due date) *No processing fee.* Call our staff for more information at (772) 340-0220 or email [customerservice@slwsd.org](mailto:customerservice@slwsd.org)
- **Online banking through customers' banks:** *(bank payment file posted by billing staff each business day) No processing fee.*
- **SLWSD online billing payment site:** *(Processed by third party vendor) Processing fees will apply for credit /debit cards and e-checks.* Go to [www.slwsd.org](http://www.slwsd.org) to pay and immediately see payment pending on your account to be posted on the next business day.
- **Pay by Phone:** *Call (866) 252-9322.* A processing fee will be charged for credit/debit cards.
- **Credit cards/debit cards:** *(In person or SLWSD online billing payment site) Visa, Mastercard, Discover, and American Express*
  - A processing fee of 3.10% or a minimum of \$2.50 will be charged.
- **Electronic Check:** *(SLWSD Online) A processing fee of \$1.50 will be charged for e-checks.*

### **Penalties**

All accounts are subject to a 10% penalty and/or discontinuation of service on all past due balances. Failure to receive your bill does not waive penalty. The owner of the property is responsible for all debts incurred and not paid to the District. Unpaid bills may become a lien against property. Payments and penalties not paid will result in disconnection of service. Re-connection of service will result in a \$25.00 service fee (during regular business hours) or \$50.00 after hours, weekends and holidays.

### **Returned Payments (NSF)**

When a payment is returned by the District's bank or online services for any uncollected reason it is classified as a returned payment (NSF) by District office procedures. The returned payment fee is \$25.00 per occurrence. When an NSF occurs, the customer will be notified by the District. A letter is mailed, and a door hanger is delivered to the location. The customer must contact the District within 7 days and the payment must be submitted to the District to prevent interruption of service and additional service fees.

Should a customer's service account have three (3) NSFs within Twelve (12) consecutive calendar months the District shall only accept payment in the form of a money order or credit card. For a customer to pay with a check again, the customer must ask for the account to be reviewed after 12 months of good standing.

## DEPOSIT CHARGES

<u>Meter Size/Type</u>	<u>Security Deposit</u>
5/8" x 3/4"	\$100.00
1"	\$400.00
1.5"	\$600.00
2"	\$1,000.00
3"	\$1,200.00
4"	\$2,500.00
6"	\$5,000.00
8"	\$6,400.00
Irrigation only	\$100.00
Dispensed water	\$150.00

For information on deposit and monthly charges for Dispensed Water accounts, please contact the office staff calling (772) 340-0220 or email [customerservice@slwsd.org](mailto:customerservice@slwsd.org)

## SERVICE RATES

The current rate schedule is charged to all properties serviced by the District according to the St. Lucie West Services District rate schedules "Tariff".

### \*Base Rate

All properties serviced by the District are required to pay a minimum base rate according to meter size. The monthly base rate is a fixed "ready to serve" charge whether occupied or vacant. Base facility charges are a part of many Utility rate structures. The base charge is to ensure that ongoing operational cost are covered to operate the water treatment plant, wastewater treatment plant, irrigation pumps and main lines up to the point of entry of each subdivision, and many other services provided by the District.

Irrigation base rate is merely a fixed rate; this service is not metered because it is not charged according to usage, but by property.

### ***Monthly Residential Base Rate Charge for 5/8 inch meter effective December 1, 2024***

	<u>Single Family</u>	<u>Multi-Family</u>
Water Base Rate Charge	\$ 18.53	\$ 18.53
Sewer Base Rate Charge	\$ 23.17	\$ 23.17
Irrigation Base Rate Charge	<u>\$ 22.17</u>	<u>\$ 15.53</u>
<b>TOTAL BASE RATE WITH ZERO USAGE</b>	<b>\$ 63.87</b>	<b>\$ 57.23</b>

***For Commercial Base Rates according to meter size please reference Schedule A and D.***

### \*Usage

<b><i>Monthly Commodity Charge</i></b>	<u>Water Usage</u>	<u>Sewer Usage</u>	<u>Total</u>
Charge per 1,000 gallons of metered water	<b>\$ 4.16</b>	<b>\$ 4.63</b>	<b>\$ 8.79</b>

Example: If usage is 3,000 gallons (\$8.79 x 3,000 = \$26.37) for commodity charge

**\*The base rate and usage are billed on a monthly basis.**