

Sunnyslope County Water District
3570 Airline Highway
Hollister, CA 95023-9702

Special Notice June 14, 2013

**Proposition 218 Notification
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED WASTEWATER RATES**

***Why Wastewater Rate
Adjustment is Needed***

Water Quality Requirements:

Sunnyslope County Water District is required to meet strict water quality requirements for treated wastewater discharges in its percolation ponds. After many years of planning, the District began construction of the new Ridgemark Wastewater Treatment Plant in 2011, which brings the District into compliance with its treated wastewater discharge requirements with the exception of chlorides and salts. To achieve salt and chloride reduction in the wastewater, improvements to the potable water system are needed and are addressed by the joint Hollister Urban Area Water Project.

This new wastewater plant has been funded by a low interest loan from the State and payments on the loan are scheduled to begin in 2014, following completion of the new wastewater treatment plant in September 2013. The District requires additional revenue to make these loan payments and to continue operating the wastewater facilities.

Hearing Date & Time:

August 6, 2013 at 5:15 PM

Hearing Location:

**Sunnyslope County Water District
3570 Airline Highway, Hollister, CA 95023**

Basis of Proposed Rates

The District is required by State law and District policy to collect revenues sufficient to cover the costs of operating the wastewater system. These costs include electricity, equipment, supplies, ongoing repairs & maintenance, treatment chemicals, capital improvements, salaries & benefits for wastewater enterprise staff, and debt service.

A study by an independent consulting firm concluded that the proposed rates will provide enough funds for the District to recover the cost of operation, maintenance, administration, and capital improvement projects.

Wastewater Rates

The District is proposing an increase in the cost utilizing the current wastewater rate structure raising the rates effective December 21, 2013 and December 21, 2014. The average residential customer will experience an increase of \$0.68 per day or \$20.38 per month beginning December 21, 2013. The average residential customer will experience a second increase of an additional \$0.75 per day or \$22.51 per month beginning December 21, 2014.

Calculating Your Single Family Residential Wastewater Bill

A single family residence with a winter water consumption of 8 hundred cubic feet (HCF) of water per month would have a monthly wastewater bill of \$118.54, under the proposed wastewater rates beginning December 21, 2013. Winter time water usage is calculated using water consumption from January 21 through March 20 of each year.

Monthly Service Charge:		\$ 80.62
Flow Charges (based on winter time water usage):	8 HCF * \$4.74 =	<u>\$ 37.92</u>
	Monthly Wastewater Bill	\$118.54

PROPOSED WASTEWATER RATES

	Current	FY 2014	FY 2015
Base Charges (per month):			
Single Family Residence (SFR)	\$67.25	\$80.62	\$95.93
Multiple Family Residence (MFR)	\$51.16	\$61.33	\$72.98
Flow Charges (per HCF):			
SFR & MFR Flow Charge	\$3.98	\$4.74	\$5.64
Cottages, Motels Trailer Parks, Laundries, etc	\$6.50	\$7.74	\$9.20
Commercial and Industrial	\$8.57	\$10.20	\$12.14

Protest Procedure

If you oppose the proposed wastewater rate increases, your protest must be submitted in writing to be counted, even if you plan to attend the Public Hearing. Written protests may be mailed to the District Secretary at 3570 Airline Highway, Hollister, California 95023, or hand delivered to the same location. To be counted, the protest must (1) be in writing, (2) state opposition to the proposed wastewater rate increase, (3) identify the parcel (by assessor's parcel number or street address), (4) include the original signature of the record owner submitting the protest, and (5) be received before the conclusion of the Public Hearing. Protests submitted orally, by email, or other electronic means will not be counted. If the identified parcel has more than one record owner, only one written protest will be counted.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors for the Sunnyslope County Water District (SSCWD) will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on the proposed Wastewater Rate Increase in the SSCWD Board Room at 3570 Airline Highway, Hollister, California, on August 6, 2013, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard. Any property owner or customer responsible for payment of the wastewater bill may protest the proposed wastewater rates. Only written and signed protests of property owners that include the writer's address and/or assessor parcel number are to be counted to determine whether a majority protest to the proposed wastewater rate increase exists. Written protests may be mailed or hand delivered to the District at 3570 Airline Highway, Hollister, California, and must be received by the end of the public hearing to be counted. A copy of the SSCWD Board adopted guidelines for the submission and tabulation of protests in connection with rate and fee increases can be found on the SSCWD website at www.sscwd.org.