

PROPOSED WASTEWATER RATE INCREASE

To Western Hills Water District Customers:

Proposition 218 requires local utility districts notify their customers of any proposed new rates for **wastewater services**. The Western Hills Water District Board of Directors will consider new rates during a public hearing as listed below. This notice also provides information on the reason for the rate increases and what the District plans on doing with the additional revenue generated by the rate increases.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing for the proposed rate increase will be held on:

Date: November 23, 2010

Wastewater Rate Increase: Time: 1:30 p.m.

Place: 9501 Morton Davis Drive, Patterson, CA 95363

A Notice has been sent to all property owners who currently receive any of these utility services. If adopted, the proposed rate increases would become effective January 1, 2011, and each January 1 thereafter through calendar year 2015.

HOW TO PROTEST PROPOSED RATES

Under Proposition 218, the owner of record for a parcel(s) that is subject to the proposed rate increase can submit a written protest against the proposed rate increase to the District at or before the time set for the public hearing. If a majority of the affected property owners submit written protests, the proposed rate increases will not go into effect.

A valid protest must: (1) be in writing; (2) include the County Assessor's Parcel Number (APN); (3) list the owner name(s); (4) have a signature; and (5) be received at or before the opening of the public hearing on the rate increases.

If the party signing the protest is not shown on the last equalized assessment roll of Stanislaus County as the owners of the parcel(s), then the protest must include written evidence that such party is the owner of the parcel.

Protests may be mailed or personally delivered to: Western Hills Water District, 9501 Morton Davis Drive, Patterson, CA. 95363.

In rental situations where the tenant pays the utility bills, the property owner is responsible for supplying the tenant with this notice. Tenants may submit a written protest at the hearing, but only one protest per parcel will be accepted.

**Si usted necesita ayuda en español con esta notificación, por favor llame al (209) 895-9493.
If you have any questions please call (209) 895-9493.**

RESIDENTIAL PROPOSED WASTEWATER RATE INCREASES						
		2011 Rate per month	2012 Rate per month	2013 Rate per month	2014 Rate per month	2015 Rate per month
City of Patterson Wastewater Charges		\$42.71 ¹	\$46.13 ²	\$49.82 ²	\$52.80 ²	\$55.97 ²
Total		\$42.71	\$46.13	\$49.82	\$52.80	\$55.97

¹ The District is currently paying \$42.71 per sewer hookup per month to the City of Patterson but the District is currently only charging \$25.00 per month to its customers.

² Rate reflects what the District would pay the City of Patterson per residential unit based upon the City's new increased monthly rates.

COMMERCIAL PROPOSED WASTEWATER RATE INCREASES					
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
City of Patterson Wastewater Charges (flat rate per month)	\$ 42.71 ²	\$ 46.13 ²	\$ 49.82 ²	\$52.80 ²	\$55.97 ²
City of Patterson Wastewater Charges (over 1000 cf ¹ (rate per 100 cf ¹ per month)	\$2.43 ²	\$2.63 ²	\$2.84 ²	\$3.00 ²	\$3.18 ²

¹ cf= cubic feet= 7.48 gallons

² The rates shown are 1.5 times the City of Patterson's current rates for commercial wastewater service per the WHWD's contract with the City. The City of Patterson is currently working on revising its rates.

If adopted, the new rates would go into effect on January 1, 2011

Why are wastewater rates being increased?

The District strives to provide reliable wastewater services to its customers and rate increases are needed to cover increasing City of Patterson wastewater charges to the District. The District Board of Directors established the current wastewater rates on March 25, 1999 and has kept the rates constant for over 11 years.

In 2009, the District processed 33.98 million gallons of wastewater. Based on the 2009-10 adopted budget, the District will have \$250,421 in expenditures and \$144,719 in revenues, thus creating an annual shortfall of \$105,702. If rates are not increased, annual shortfalls are expected to increase.

How will the District's rates compare to other cities?

In 2006-07, The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) developed a survey of wastewater rates for a typical single family residence located in a city with a population of less than 1,000 and found the following: the highest monthly wastewater charge was \$231.92 (2005), the average charge was

\$43.11 (2005), and the median charge was \$33.58 (2005). Although the SWRCB has not updated their survey, the following is a sample of some of the cities in the survey and some of the updated charges:

Agency	Monthly Charge 2005	Monthly Charge Estimates 2010 ¹
Amador Water Agency	\$73.50	\$82.29
Bridgeport PUD	\$78.54	\$93.28
Burlingame Hills WMD	\$67.67	\$80.37
Golden Valley MWD	\$126.00	\$149.65
Lake Canyon CWSD	\$75.00	\$89.08
Palmer Creed CSD	\$60.00	\$71.26
WHWD	\$25.00	\$42.71 (for 2011)

¹ 2005 charges inflated by 3.5 percent but it is unknown if the rates increased based on higher percentage.