

# CORRESPONDENCE

14 April 2010

City Clerk of the City of Santa Barbara

735 Anacapa Street

Santa Barbara, Calif. 93101

RECEIVED

2010 APR 19 AM 10:02

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Re: Proposed Increase to Utility Rates

I strongly oppose any utility rate increases (Water/Wastewater/Trash recycling etc.)

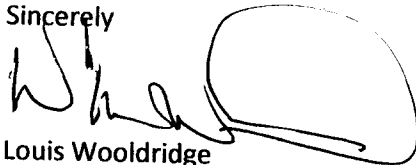
The rates being discussed are beyond what our community can afford in this current environment.

I dislike the annual process of these services getting seemingly mandatory increases independent of the improvement of services. The City cannot continue to service the unions and cartels that exist within the city (and State).

No increases ..

Our City and State is on a path of non recovery and one which is making too huge demands upon the tax payers. We are deep in debt, out of budget and it must stop.

Sincerely



Louis Wooldridge

425 Loma Media Road

93103

I am Very opposed to  
any increases to the Utility Rates.

If the city does not have  
enough money for its Budget,  
then Cut the Budget!!  
+ that includes Pensions  
+ Union Contracts

David DeLisle  
46 Pine Drive  
Santa Barbara CA 93105  
805-886-5122

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

2010 APR 19 AM 10:02

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2010 APR 21 AM 9:48

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

4-20-10

Dear City Clerk,

I am totally Against all 3 proposed rate increases - water, Wastewater, and trash + Recycling. I protest all three.

These are tough economic times, and it is getting too expensive to own a home and live in this city!

I do recall water rates were increased  
(over)

in the last two years.

Thank you,  
Michael R. Thompson  
320 CANYON DR.  
Santa Barbara, CA. 93105  
(homeowner)

April 21, 2010

Christine Vanderbilt  
107 Via del Cielo  
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

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2010 APR 23 PM 3:40

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

City Clerk of the City of Santa Barbara  
735 Anacapa Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Protest regarding proposed rate increases for water services  
Protest regarding proposed rate increases for sewer services  
Protest regarding proposed rate increases for Trash & Recycling collection

Dear Members of the City Council:

This letter will serve as my written PROTEST to each and every rate increase proposed for city services for water, sewer and trash & recycling services.

You have run this city's finances into the ground by years of wasteful spending on pet projects and non-essential services and projects, and by raiding the long-term savings funds of the city to pay for your current non-emergency expenses, and by contracting out your city's taxpayers to pay outrageous salaries and benefits for city employees. ("Blue Line" project; ridiculous and unnecessary numerous bulb-outs at perfectly functional intersections; official resolutions for the city to adopt a certain position on federal and other non-city political issues; costs for expensive studies by expert poll takers, and so on).

You do not need to raise tax rates on your citizens to pay for your profligate spending. What you need to do is: STOP SPENDING, STOP TAXING, get a pared-down budget in order and stick to it. Do not raid the emergency funds of the city; instead use those funds only to pay for emergencies such as temporary increased costs for repairs due to the Zaca fire, for capital improvements, etc. You are going to drive out hardworking wage-earners and business owners from this city by increasing taxes just a bit at a time, and finally people are going to reach their level of (justified) outrage and move out of here. Jobs will decrease, businesses will continue to close, and solid-middle-class neighborhoods of families will weaken.

Please take my PROTEST into consideration during your deliberations at the public hearing of June 15, 2010.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Christine Vanderbilt

April 21, 2010

City Clerk  
City of Santa Barbara  
735 Anacapa St  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RECEIVED

2010 APR 29 PM 2: 11

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Subject: Rate increases for water, wastewater and trash/recycling

Dear Mayor Schneider, Councilmember Francisco, Councilmember White,  
Councilmember House, Councilmember Williams, Councilmember Self and  
Councilmember Hotchkiss,

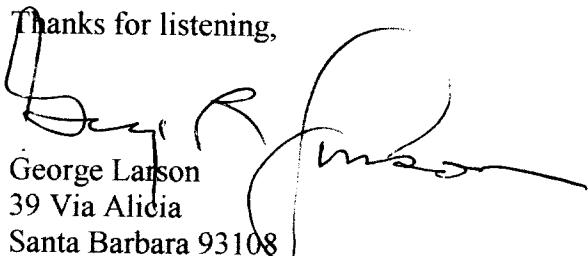
This letter is written in response to a request for public comment on proposed rate increases for water, wastewater and trash/recycling. The rate increases appear to range from about 3 to 4 percent.

It's wonderful to grant rate increases in an inflationary environment, but we are not there. Over 12% of California is out of work, many have given up looking for a job and a great number of those working are getting half to three quarter pay with reduced benefits. The collapse of the stock market has seriously reduced the value of individual retirement accounts and bank savings accounts now pay 1 to 1 ½ percent. In addition, housing values have tanked and many owe more on their houses than the houses are worth. Please recognize that the world has changed and a very large percentage of the homeowners in Santa Barbara are having a rough time and a return to 'the good old days' is not visible on the economic horizon.

Instead of a rate increase, I strongly recommend a 15% rate reduction across the board. This 15% is a fraction of the loss of income experienced by most of the voters of this beautiful city, but it will help even the score a little. The 15% reduction should apply to pay rates, benefits, pensions and city fees. An additional 5 to 10% reduction should be planned for 12 months later. Once the city is living within its means we, the residents and voters of Santa Barbara, can work with the city's representatives to establish a fair rate of pay and benefits.

Los Angeles is on the verge of economic collapse. So is the state of California. The state of Illinois, of all places, has just enacted major legislation to control costs. If Santa Barbara goes into financial ruin, the blame will be easy to place.

Thanks for listening,

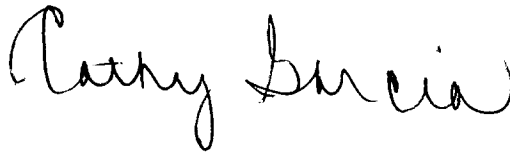
  
George Larson  
39 Via Alicia  
Santa Barbara 93108

May 5, 2010

To City Officials,

I am billed by the city of Santa Barbara for utilities and I am very opposed to any rate increases, for any reason. Too many rate increases! Negotiate with providers, like trash. I can't believe the amount that was just approved for the Cater plant. It JUST got a major facelift. Try to cut costs. STOP raising rates.

Cathy Garcia  
306 Argonne Circle\  
Santa Barbara



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2010 MAY 10 AM 11:50

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE