

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Proposed Increase to Utility Rates



Date: June 14, 2011
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: City Council Chambers, City Hall
 735 Anacapa Street, Santa Barbara

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Santa Barbara will consider a recommendation to adopt a resolution, at the above-indicated time and place, to increase water, wastewater (sewer), and solid waste collection rates charged by the City. Increases would be effective on utility bills dated July 1, 2011 or later. Sample billing comparisons for current and proposed rates are shown on the reverse. Small variations in the stated percentages may occur due to rounding.

Water Rates (Applicable only to customers billed by the City for water service)

The proposed water rate change is a three and one-half percent (3.5%) increase to usage charges and monthly service charges for all customer classes. The monthly bill for the average in-City single family residential customer (12 hundred cubic feet of water) would increase by \$2.19. The proposed increase will fund operating costs and projects to replace and repair water mains, pumping stations, storage reservoirs, and the water treatment plant. These projects are needed to meet regulatory requirements and to keep the City's infrastructure in good shape to provide reliable water service for household use and fire protection.

Wastewater Rates (Applicable only to customers billed by the City for sewer service)

The proposed wastewater rate change is a four percent (4%) increase to City's current charges for all customer classes. The maximum monthly charge for a single family residential customer would increase by \$1.40 under the proposed rates. The proposed increase will fund operating costs, as well as replacement and repair of the City's aging sewer system. This includes replacement of critical facilities at the wastewater treatment plant, including the 30-year old pumps that pump sewage through the treatment plant.

Trash & Recycling (Applicable only to customers billed by the City for trash/recycling collection)

The proposed rate increase is 6.09% of the City's current charges for all customer classes, including residential, multi-unit residential and commercial. Of the total adjustment, 2.72% accounts for an increase in the solid waste "tipping fee" charged by the Tajiguas Landfill and an increase in the amounts paid to the City's contracted haulers tied to the increase in the Consumer Price Index. The City is contractually obligated to compensate its franchised waste haulers for these increases. The remaining 3.37% rate increase will cover losses in revenue stemming from the downturn in the recyclable commodities market and the cost to operate and maintain a landfill gas collection and control system at the Los Positas Landfill, which the City is legally obligated to operate pursuant to State Law.

This notice is intended only for customers billed by the City of Santa Barbara for water, wastewater, and/or solid waste collection services. For a complete list of all current and proposed rates, go to: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/UtilityBilling or call (805) 564-5460.

If you oppose any of the above increases, please deliver your protest **in writing**, including your name and service address, to the City Clerk of the City of Santa Barbara at 735 Anacapa Street, Santa Barbara, CA, 93101, prior to or during the City Council's consideration of this item on June 14, 2011. (If you wish to submit your protest during the public hearing, please deliver it to City Staff in the Council Chamber.) Because multiple rates are being considered by City Council at the same hearing, please indicate the specific rate you are protesting.

Typical Water and Wastewater Billing Comparisons – Current vs. Proposed Rates

Customer Class	Example	Assumed Monthly Usage (hcf/mth)	Total Monthly Water & Wastewater Charges*		
			Current Rates	Proposed Rates	Combined Increase for Water & Sewer
Single Family Residential	Low User 5/8" meter	6	\$59.36	\$61.57	\$2.21
	Average User 5/8" meter	12	\$97.44	\$101.03	\$3.59
	Above Average User 1" meter	40	\$258.33	\$267.53	\$9.20
Multi-Family Residential Building	12 dwelling units 2" meter	60	\$578.32	\$600.01	\$21.69
Commercial	75% at Block 1 rate 25% at Block 2 rate 2" meter	60	\$544.06	\$563.86	\$19.80
Industrial/ High Strength Commercial	75% at Block 1 rate 25% at Block 2 rate 2" meter	100	\$893.06	\$925.76	\$32.70
Irrigation-Commercial	75% at Block 1 rate 25% at Block 2 rate 2" meter – no sewer	60	\$396.46	\$410.26	\$13.80
Recycled Water	2" meter – no sewer	250	\$561.06	\$579.51	\$18.45
Irrigation-Residential	1 acre of irrigated area 75% at Block 1 rate 25% at Block 2 rate 1" meter – no sewer Allotments are annualized – monthly average shown at right	40	\$229.40	\$237.38	\$7.98
Irrigation-Recreation		120	\$385.70	\$399.08	\$13.38
Irrigation-Agriculture		72	\$197.30	\$204.14	\$6.84
Out-of-City Customers	Currently charged at 130% of rates for corresponding in-City classes; no change is proposed in this percentage.				

* Not including 6% utility tax on water, as applicable

Typical Trash, Recycling, & Greenwaste Billing Comparisons Current vs. Proposed Rates (All collection frequencies 1 time per week)

Service Level	Current Rates*	Proposed Rates*	\$ Change
Basic Residential Service (32-gal trash, 32-gal greenwaste, up to 96-gal recycle)	\$26.83	\$28.46	+\$1.63
Minimum Multi-Unit Residential (3 cans or less) (3-32 gal trash/ + up to 96-gal greenwaste, up to 96-gal recycle)	\$34.30	\$36.39	+\$2.09
Multi-Unit Residential (4 cans) (4-32 gal trash/week+ up to 96-gal greenwaste, up to 96-gal recycle)	\$37.36	\$39.64	+\$2.28
Sample Small Business Cart/Can Service (96-gal trash/week, up to 96-gal greenwaste, up to 96- gal recycle)	\$58.80	\$62.38	+\$3.58
Sample Business Dumpster Service (4yd trash/week, 4yd recycle/week)	\$329.61	\$349.67	+\$20.06

* Not including 6% utility tax on trash/recycling collection, as applicable

For more information, including a complete list of all current and proposed rates:
www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/UtilityBilling or (805) 564-5460