

# WESTHAVEN COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

P.O. Box 2015 (446B 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. Westhaven) Trinidad CA 95570 (707) 677-0798 wcsd@humboldt1.com



## WCSD NEWS

JUNE 2006

**TO: Westhaven CSD Customers**

**FROM: Westhaven CSD Board of Directors:**

Courtney Blake - *Vice President*

Barbara Cline - *President*

Tim McKay

Pete Nichols - *Safety Officer*

Greg Smith - *Finance Officer*

**Westhaven CSD Staff:**

Annette Leshner

Richard Swisher

Jamie Vincent

- *Secretary / Bookkeeper*

- *Manager / Operator*

- *Operator*

Dear Westhaven Neighbors and Friends,

This newsletter accompanies our Annual Water Quality Report and provides an opportunity for us to share other information about WCSD activities over the past year.

### Changes on the Board of Directors

In December 2005, board members Barbara Bryant and Kay Schulz stepped down at the end of their terms and were replaced by Tim McKay and Pete Nichols. Barbara served energetically from 2001-2005. Kay began her service to the community water system as a board member of the Westhaven Mutual Water Company and went on to become the first President of the Westhaven Community Services District in 1987, serving then until 1989. Kay returned to the board in 1993, serving steadfastly and providing her invaluable historical perspectives for 12 more years.

### 2006-2007 Operating Budget and Water Rates

The District's operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year is scheduled for approval at the June 21 Board meeting. The budget is written to provide for the costs of operating the water system, including reserve funds for short-term emergencies as well as long-term water system infrastructure replacement. This next year's budget reflects increasing operating costs but no increase in payments to reserves.

At the May 17 meeting the Board reviewed a draft budget that included a 4.3% increase in average monthly water bills, as follows:

<b>Base Rate</b>	Increases from <b>\$33.83</b> to <b>\$35.30</b> per month, billed in advance.	
<b>Commodity Rates</b>	Range from <b>\$5.81</b> per 1,000 gallons to <b>\$10.15</b> per 1,000 gallons in six steps.	
<b>Estimated Average Bill</b>	Increases from <b>\$56.01</b> to <b>\$58.44</b>	

Some examples of how bills could increase:

1,000 gallons / month (gpm)	from \$39.40 to <b>\$41.11</b>	6,000 gpm	from \$72.23 to <b>\$75.36</b>
3,000 gpm	from \$51.37 to <b>\$53.60</b>	12,000 gpm	from \$125.63 to <b>\$131.08</b>

The numbers above are estimates, and some minor changes are expected in the budget to be presented in June as more information about next year's fixed expenses becomes available. Please attend the June 21 meeting with your questions and comments as the Board considers the 2006-2007 budget in a public hearing.

*MORE NEWS ON THE BACK*

I support rate assistance at the following level     10%             20%             30%             40%             50%

I do not support rate assistance   

.....*CUT HERE*.....

**Water Rate Assistance**

During last year's budget process the Board was asked to consider establishing a rate assistance program for low-income customers. In response, the District conducted a mail-in survey. Approximately 20 of the District's 227 customers responded, indicating that they were receiving electricity and/or telephone rate assistance. The table below represents an estimate of discounts for assisted customers and corresponding rate increases for unassisted customers. As you can see, a rate assistance program would represent a small, additional cost to unassisted customers, and it would be a cost unrelated to the costs of operating the water system. For these reasons, the Board does not wish to establish such a program without the assurance that a significant majority of those customers asked to pay the small, additional cost are in favor of the program.

**It would be a great help, and we would very much appreciate it, if you could take a moment to complete, detach and return the survey slip at the top of this page. Please call Richard at the WCSD office with any questions you may have. 677-0798**

Respectfully,

Your Board of Directors

**BASE RATE ASSISTANCE OPTIONS**

Assumes assistance for 20 accounts

	<b>OPTION 1</b>	<b>DISCOUNT</b>			
<b>ASSISTED</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>32.11</b>	<b>-\$3.57</b>		Assisted Base Rate decrease
<b>UNASSISTED</b>		<b>36.03</b>	<b>\$0.34</b>	<b>0.96%</b>	Unassisted Base Rate increase
	<b>OPTION 2</b>				
<b>ASSISTED</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>28.55</b>	<b>-\$7.14</b>		Assisted Base Rate decrease
<i>equivalent to P,G &amp; E CARE</i>					
<b>UNASSISTED</b>		<b>36.37</b>	<b>\$0.69</b>	<b>1.93%</b>	Unassisted Base Rate increase
	<b>OPTION 3</b>				
<b>ASSISTED</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>24.98</b>	<b>-\$10.70</b>		Assisted Base Rate decrease
<b>UNASSISTED</b>		<b>36.71</b>	<b>\$1.03</b>	<b>2.89%</b>	Unassisted Base Rate increase
	<b>OPTION 4</b>				
<b>ASSISTED</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>21.41</b>	<b>-\$14.27</b>		Assisted Base Rate decrease
<b>UNASSISTED</b>		<b>37.06</b>	<b>\$1.38</b>	<b>3.86%</b>	Unassisted Base Rate increase
	<b>OPTION 5</b>				
<b>ASSISTED</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>17.84</b>	<b>-\$17.84</b>		Assisted Base Rate decrease
<b>UNASSISTED</b>		<b>37.40</b>	<b>\$1.72</b>	<b>4.82%</b>	Unassisted Base Rate increase