

WESTHAVEN COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

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WCSD NEWS

APRIL 2010

WCSD NEWS

APRIL 2012

TO: Westhaven CSD Customers

FROM: Westhaven CSD Board of Directors:

Greg Smith - President
Bill Verick - Vice President
David Hankin - Finance Officer
Michael Moon - Safety Officer
Steven Phipps - Board Member

Westhaven CSD Staff:

Richard Swisher - Manager / Operator
Jamie Vincent - Operator
Sarah Jordan - Secretary / Bookkeeper

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.

2012-2013 Operating Budget and Water Rates

The District's operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year is scheduled for public comment at the May 16 Board meeting and final approval in a public hearing at the June 20 Board meeting. The budget is written to provide for the estimated costs of operating the water system, including reserve funds for short-term emergencies as well as long-term water system infrastructure replacement.

At the April 18 meeting the Board approved a draft budget that included a proposed rate structure linked to the budget which produces an increase of \$1.43 in the monthly Base Rate and an average increase of \$0.19 in the monthly water use (commodity) charge for a total \$1.63 (2.19%) increase in average monthly water bills. See further discussion on the next page.

A summary of the proposed rate increase is as follows:

Base Rate

Increases from **\$43.57** to **\$45.00** per month, billed in advance.

Commodity Rates Range from **\$10.01 to \$14.50** per 1,000 gallons per month in 4 steps.
Estimated Average Bill Increases from **\$74.25 to \$75.88**

Some examples of how bills would increase:

1,000 gallons/month	from \$54 to \$55	6,000 gpm	from \$112 to \$114
3,000 gpm	from \$75 to \$77	9,000 gpm	from \$155 to \$158

For specific information about your bill and how it could change

call WCSD Manager Richard Swisher at 677-0798

The proposed budget will be discussed again at the May 18 and June 20, 2012 meetings.

Both meetings are scheduled to begin at 7:30 PM at the Fire Hall on 6th Avenue.

Your questions and comments are always most welcome.

California State law provides water service customers the right to protest water rate increases.

***If more than 50% of the District's water customers submit a written protest,
the increases cannot be implemented.***

Please plan to attend the June 20 Board meeting and participate in the public hearing.

JUNE 20, 2012—WESTHAVEN FIRE HALL—446 6TH AVENUE—7:30 PM

WCSD 2012-2013 DRAFT BUDGET AT A GLANCE (= decrease)

EXPENSES BY CATEGORY	11-12	12-13	Change	% of total
Waterworks Payroll	41,731	43,263	1,532	20.6%
Management Payroll	30,834	31,965	1,131	15.2%
Debt Service (DWR Loan – 1994 through 2024)	26,402	26,402	(0)	12.6%
Capital Reserve	18,763	20,000	1,237	9.5%
Clerical Payroll	15,045	15,597	552	7.4%
Employee Benefits	11,391	12,411	1,020	5.9%
Operating Reserve	12,000	10,000	(2,000)	4.8%
Water Treatment (chemicals, testing, maint.)	9,250	9,250	0	4.4%
Office Expense (rent, utilities, equip. & supplies)	8,440	9,090	650	4.3%
Accounting & Legal	6,575	6,575	0	3.1%
Administrative and General	6,180	5,915	(265)	2.8%
Insurance (Liability & Workers Comp.)	6,512	5,831	(681)	2.8%
Pumping – Well and Distribution System Booster	5,015	5,015	0	2.4%
Distribution System – maintenance and repair	4,525	4,525	0	2.2%
Billing	1,935	2,175	240	1.0%
Meter Reading	1,925	1,994	69	0.9%
Water Source Collectors - maintenance	200	200	0	0.1%
<u>TOTAL EXPENSE</u>	206,723	210,208	3,485	1.69%

This next year's operating budget proposes a total increase in expenses of \$4,515, down from an \$8,183 increase last year. The WCSD continues to experience increases in expenses similar to those you are experiencing at home. Our costs for fuel, electricity, water treatment chemicals and health insurance, just to name a few, have to be recovered from your payments for water service. Employee cost of living adjustments (COLAs) have normally been calculated annually based on the COLA from the US Social Security Administration. The two previous years' Social Security Administration COLA were 0%, and therefore there was no change in employee wage rates for those years. This year's budget proposes a 3.6% cost of living increase for all three employees.

With approximately \$184,000 in capital reserves, the District is facing the prospect of long-term infrastructure replacement on several fronts. More than 5 out of a total of nearly 7 miles of water mains are over 40 years old and of inadequate diameter. Bringing this distribution system up to modern standards could cost up to \$1,000,000 which represents a daunting task for a district of our size.

DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

Since April 15, 2010 you have been receiving quarterly Notices of Violation of the Maximum Contaminant Level standard (MCL) for the Disinfection By-Product (DBP) Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) in the drinking water. These are Tier 2 violations, less severe than a Tier 1 violation and do not constitute an emergency but do indicate a problem that we must address.

In the Fall of 2010 we were encouraged by CDPH to apply for funding through the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) to address the DBP problem. SRF funding is awarded in two phases. The first phase provides funding for planning the project, and in December 2010 we completed the application process with a request for \$130,000. This is an application for a loan, but we are hoping for an 80% grant. After the planning phase is completed we will apply for funding for construction of the chosen treatment facility. Our application was deemed complete in the spring of 2011, but funding and labor shortages in CDPH have delayed the processing, and we are still waiting for a funding proposal. At this time it is unknown when we will be able to begin work to correct the problem. We will also be expecting further increases in the water rates to pay for the loan portions of the funding. Below is a discussion of the source of DBPs and some alternatives for treatment.

At our surface water treatment plant the water is first filtered and then disinfected with chlorine to inactivate disease-causing pathogens that may be present in untreated surface water. The chlorine can also react with organic compounds from the natural vegetative litter and stream biota, referred to as DBP precursors, to form DBPs. These precursors are often grouped for reference as Total Organic Carbons (TOCs), and they are dissolved in the water at higher levels when it is raining.

Quoting from the CDPH-mandated language in the notice of violation:

Total organic carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, TOC provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts include Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic acids. Drinking water containing these byproducts may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer.

We are required by CDPH to sample quarterly for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) at a point thought likely to represent the longest residence time in the distribution system. Samples are taken from our Sampling Station #3, which is west of Highway 101 and north of 6th Ave. The MCL for HAAs is 60 parts per billion (ppb) and 80 ppb for Trihalomethanes. Compliance with the MCL is based on the running annual average (RAA) of the quarterly sampling.

We began quarterly sampling in 2006. Since 2006 our running average for TTHMs has exceeded the MCL 5 out of 23 times, and the running annual average for HAAs has exceeded the MCL 21 out of 23 times. Our latest result for HAAs, sampled in February 2012, was 260 ppb. Our running average for HAAs still remains too high, at 118 ppb. Below is a table summarizing sampling results since August 2006.

<u>DBP</u>	<u>MCL ppb</u>	<u>RANGE ppb</u>	<u>AVG ppb</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>TOTAL EXC. MCL</u>	<u>RAA EXC. MCL</u>
TTHMs	80.0	10.0 – 180.0	67	23	7	5
HAAs	60.0	12.0 – 410.0	108	23	21	21

For source water conditions such as ours, there are two generally accepted approaches to reducing or eliminating DBPs. One approach is to change from chlorine disinfectant (in our case sodium hypochlorite) to chlorine dioxide or to chloramines (a mixture of chlorine and ammonia). Chlorine dioxide is applied as a compressed gas, and while it tends to produce lower levels of DBPs, it is unstable, hazardous to work with and may produce other DBPs. Disinfection with chloramines has drawbacks as well, including deterioration of both water quality and disinfectant residuals in the distribution system and the possibility of forming other DBPs.

A second approach focuses on reducing TOCs before adding chlorine to the water. This would have the added benefit of reducing the overall amount of chlorine required. One way to reduce TOCs is by using an ion exchange process such as the one we attempted to fund through the federal ARRA program in 2009. A more common and initially less costly process used for TOC removal is filtration through activated carbon. While the activated carbon process is expected to have operation and maintenance costs higher than those of the ion exchange process, mainly due to the costs of re-activating the carbon, the initial construction and installation costs of carbon filters would be much less than that of the ion exchange process.

If you are concerned about DBPs in your tap water, you can greatly reduce or eliminate them using a carbon filter of your own at a cost many times less than that of bottled or delivered water. Please call WCSD Manager Richard Swisher at 677-0798 with your questions about DBPs or any other aspect of the WCSD water system.

Some good news is that here in Westhaven we are fortunate to have high-quality water sources that are able to provide the basis for excellent drinking water. Federal and State regulations require sampling for more than 80 contaminants known to be found in drinking water with another 30 contaminants currently under review. As you can see in the water quality report, we have very few contaminants of any kind and, with the exception of DBPs, none of the contaminants are found in excess of levels currently considered to be safe.

Ongoing discussion of these issues and other operational aspects of the District will continue at the WCSD's regular monthly meetings, usually on the third Wednesday of each month, at 7:30 pm at the Westhaven Fire Hall at 446 6th Avenue. All meetings are open to the public, and we encourage you to attend.

WATERSHED NIGHT – MAY 18, 6:00 – 9:00 PM, TRINIDAD TOWN HALL

The Trinidad Bay Watershed Council is sponsoring this event

Come and learn about the watersheds in Trinidad and Westhaven and other regional water quality issues.