

WESTHAVEN COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

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WCSD NEWS

APRIL 2010

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APRIL 2013

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.

2013-2014 Operating Budget and Water Rates

The District's operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year is scheduled for public comment at the May 15 Board meeting and final approval in a public hearing at the June 19 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 17 meeting the Board approved a draft budget that included an increase of \$0.41 in the monthly Base Rate and an average increase of \$0.02 in the monthly water use (commodity) charge for a total \$0.43 (0.55%) increase in average monthly expense per customer.

However, decreases in customers' water use over the past year or so have reduced the District's income to approximately 90% of the budgeted expectation. Because we do need the income to support the budget we are proposing a restructuring of the commodity rates that will mean a slight increase in your monthly bills in fiscal year 2013-2014. The change includes going from a 4-step to a 3-step rate structure.

A summary of the proposed rate increase is as follows:

Base Rate	Increases from \$45.16 to \$45.57 per month, billed in advance.
Commodity Rates	Range from \$10.85 to \$14.35 per 1,000 gallons per month in 3 steps.

Some examples of how bills would increase for selected gallons per month (gpmo):

1,000 gpmo	rate increases from \$9.98 to \$10.85 per 1,000 gal. - bill increases from \$55.14 to \$56.32
3,000 gpmo	rate increases from \$11.48 to \$12.45 per 1,000 gal. - bill increases from \$76.60 to \$78.02
6,000 gpmo	rate increases from \$12.98 to \$14.35 per 1,000 gal. - bill increases from \$114.00 to \$115.37
9,000 gpmo	rate stays at 14.35 per 1,000 gal. - bill increases from \$157.38 to \$158.52

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 17 and June 19, 2013 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.

WCSD billing regulations also include provisions for bill adjustments following unavoidable leaks on customer's property.

The leak adjustments essentially return to the customer some of the water use income that would otherwise go to the District. *If you are opposed to this policy, please file a written protest with the WCSD. If you would like more information about leak adjustments call the WCSD office.*

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 19, 2012—WESTHAVEN FIRE HALL—446 6TH AVENUE—7:30 PM

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

EXPENSES BY CATEGORY	12-13	13-14	Change	% of total
\$44,116 - Waterworks Payroll	43,078	44,116	1,038	20.7%
\$32,748 - Management Payroll	31,979	32,748	769	15.4%
\$26,400 - Debt Service	26,402	26,402	(0)	12.4%
\$20,000 - Capital Reserve	20,000	20,000	0	9.4%
\$15,982 - Clerical Payroll	15,605	15,982	378	7.5%
\$7,557 - Employee Benefits	12,411	7,557	(4,854)	3.6%
\$10,000 - Operating Reserve	10,000	10,000	0	4.7%
\$9,250 - Treatment	9,250	9,250	0	4.4%

\$9,370 - Office Expense	9,090	9,370	280	4.4%
\$7,075 - Accounting & Legal	6,575	7,075	500	3.3%
\$6,725 - Administrative and General	6,395	6,725	330	3.2%
\$5,826 - Insurance (Liability & WC)	5,728	5,826	98	2.7%
\$5,015 - Pumping	5,015	5,015	0	2.4%
\$4,900 - Distribution	4,525	4,900	375	2.3%
\$2,315 - Billing	2,175	2,315	140	1.1%
\$2,036 - Meter Reading	1,986	2,036	50	1.0%
\$2,000 - Engineering, Consultants	0	2,000	2,000	0.9%
\$1,100 - Customer Leak Adjustments	1,030	1,100	70	0.5%
\$200 - Water Source	200	200	0	0.1%
<u>TOTAL EXPENSE</u>	211,443	212,617	1,174	

This next year's operating budget proposes a total increase in expenses of \$1,174, down from an \$4,515 increase last year. This year's budget also proposes a 2.5% cost of living increase for the District's three employees.

With approximately \$185,000 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 - a daunting sum for a district with only 232 customer accounts.

DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS - UPDATE

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.

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.

In November of 2006 we began quarterly sampling for two groups of DBPs, Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) at a point thought likely to represent the longest residence time in the distribution system. Since 2006 our running average for TTHMs has exceeded the MCL, 80 parts per billion (ppb) 5 out of 25 times, and the running annual average for HAAs has exceeded the MCL, 60 ppb, 23 out of 25 times. Our latest result for HAAs, sampled in February 2013, was 75 ppb. Our running average for HAAs still remains too high, at 125 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	64	26	7	4
HAAs	60.0	12.0 – 410.0	108	25	21	21

In the Fall of 2010 we applied for funding to address the DBP problem through the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF). 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. In September 2012 we were informed that our application had been approved, and now we are just waiting for the official funding proposal, which we expect to be 20% loan and 80% grant. After the planning phase is completed we will apply for funding for construction of the chosen treatment facility. At this time it is still unknown when we will be able to begin work to correct the problem.

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. 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 any of a variety of household carbon filters at a cost many times less than that of bottled water. Please call WCSD Manager Richard Swisher at 677-0798 with your questions about DBPs or any other aspect of the WCSD water system.

WATER STORAGE TANK REPAIR / CONSTRUCTION

In December of 2012 a large redwood tree fell on the corner of our 100,000 gallon water storage tank roof, damaging the roof and the roof's end wall. Many of you will remember receiving a phone call advising you to avoid drinking the water without first boiling it. As it turned out, subsequent testing for coliform bacteria indicated no problems with contamination. The damaged area is securely covered with a heavy tarp, and we have made arrangements for the repair, expected to occur soon.

A longer term issue with the tank is the continuing deterioration, due to constant dampness, of the wooden truss structure supporting the metal roof. As a proposed solution we have submitted a grant application for \$360,000 to construct a new 85,000 gallon tank to

serve the water system while we construct a new, non-wooden roof on the existing tank, ending with two tanks in service and an 85% increase in storage capacity.

IN CONCLUSION

In spite of the continuing challenges the good news is that here in Westhaven we are fortunate to have high-quality water sources that, with the appropriate treatment, are able to provide the basis for excellent drinking water.

Federal and State regulations require sampling for more than 80 contaminants generally 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 WCSO'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.

If you would like to receive meeting agendas, newsletters, annual water quality reports and other public notifications

via email, just send an email to us at wcsd@suddenlinkmail.com

Thank you!