

# WESTHAVEN COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT



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## WCSD NEWS

## APRIL 2017

**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  
 Roxanne Levang - 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.

### WCSD Board Election year

2017 is a regular election year for the WCSD, with two Board seats coming up for election. The filing period is July 17 – August 11. Contact the County Office of Elections for more information – 445-7481.

### 2017-2018 Operating Budget and Water Rates

The District's operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year is scheduled for public comment at the May 17 Board meeting and final approval in a *public hearing at the June 21 Board meeting*.

At the April 19 meeting the Board approved a draft budget that included an increase of \$2.12 (4.48%) in the monthly Base Rate and an estimated increase of \$3.51 (4.17%) increase in the average monthly water bill.

*A summary of the proposed rate increase is as follows:*

**Base Rate** Increases from **\$47.28** to **49.40** per month, billed in advance.

**Single Commodity Rate** Increases from **\$13.81** to **\$14.07** per 1,000 gallons per month

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

EXAMPLES OF MONTHLY BILLS	CURRENT	2017 - 2018	INCREASE (DECREASE)
<b>BASE</b>	<b>\$47.28</b>	<b>\$49.40</b>	<b>2.12</b>
<b>NO WATER INCLUDED IN BASE CHARGE</b>	<b>TOTAL / MONTH</b>		
0 gallons per month	47.28	\$49.40	2.12
50 gallons per day = 1,500 gallons per month	\$67.99	\$70.51	2.52
100 gallons per day = 3,000 gallons per month	\$88.70	\$91.61	2.91
150 gallons per day = 4,500 gallons per month	\$109.41	\$112.72	3.31
200 gallons per day = 6,000 gallons per month	\$130.12	\$133.83	3.71
250 gallons per day = 7,500 gallons per month	\$150.83	\$154.94	4.11
300 gallons per day = 9,000 gallons per month	\$171.54	\$176.05	4.51
Avg. monthly bill increase for active accounts (204)			3.51

**For specific information about your bill and how it could change call WCSD Manager Richard Swisher at 677-0798**

This next year's operating budget proposes a total increase in expenses of \$8,855 in an annual total budget of \$231,113, which includes \$1,716 for a 1.7% cost of living increase for the District's three employees (one full time, two part time) and \$5,513 for a 4 hour per week increase in budgeted work hours for the Treatment Operator. The COLA equals an average of \$0.62 per customer per month, and the increase in operator hours equals \$2.27 per customer per month. Also, in 2018 we will begin making semi-annual loan payments of \$2,690 on the loan portion of \$26,900 in the Disinfection By-Products Project funding, equaling a new base rate expense of \$1.93 per customer per month. The slight increase in commodity rates is mainly due to the increase in operations hours.

The proposed budget will be discussed again at the May 17 and June 21, 2017 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 water bill adjustments following unavoidable leaks on customer's property. The leak adjustments return to the subject 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, then the increases cannot be implemented. Protests are tallied as one protest per assessor's parcel.***

***Please plan to attend the June 21 Board meeting and participate in the public hearing.***

**JUNE 21, 2017—WESTHAVEN FIRE HALL—446 6TH AVENUE—7:30 PM**

**DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM UPGRADE**

Over the spring and summer of 2016 we completed a distribution system upgrade, replacing over a mile of 48-year-old 2 inch polyethylene pipe with 4 inch C900 PVC. This replaced over half of the 2 inch polyethylene pipe in the system, which has been the pipe most inclined to leaks. The new mains were installed on all of the streets west of US 101, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, portions of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Transit Avenues, Westhaven Dr. and Metsko Lane. The project was paid for with \$493,500 in drought-related grant funding from the California Department of Water Resources supplemented by an \$115,000 match from the District's then \$205,000 Capital Reserve Fund. Since completing the project, total water loss due to leaks in the distribution system has dropped by more than 75% compared to the previous 12 months – a very successful outcome. We are currently seeking a source of funding to replace the remaining mile of 2 in pipe.

**NEW WATER STORAGE TANK CONSTRUCTION AND OLD TANK REPAIR**

In 2014 we were approved for \$360,000 in California Department of Water Resources grant funding to construct a new 85,000 gallon tank to serve the water system while we replace the deteriorating roof on the existing tank. The ultimate result will be having two tanks in service and an 85% increase in storage capacity. In 2014 plans specifications for the new tank were prepared, and the project was put out to bid in February 2015. Unfortunately, the two bids we received greatly exceeded the amount of funding available and so had to be rejected. Happily, we were successful in securing approval for \$151,000 in additional grant funding later in 2015, and we received the funding agreement late in 2016. The project was successfully bid in March of this year.

Construction of the new tank was scheduled to begin in April but will be delayed due to the continuing wet weather. After the new tank is put into service the roof will be replaced on the old tank. The entire project should be completed by October.

## **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 significantly higher levels when it is raining.

Quoting from the State Department of Drinking Water (DDW)-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 (the average of the most recent four quarters' results) for TTHMs has exceeded the MCL (80 parts per billion (ppb)) about 30% of the time, and the running annual average for HAAs has exceeded the MCL (60 ppb) about 95% of the time.

In 2010 we applied 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. In September 2012 we were informed that our application had been approved for 20% interest-free loan and 80% grant.

It was not until December 2014 that we received the actual funding agreement, and not long after the rains pretty much stopped for the rest of the winter, leaving us without the high levels of organics in the raw water that we needed for testing purposes. Fortunately, 2015 – 2016 and 2016 – 2017 have been very wet winters, and we have been able to collect much of the information needed to identify the best treatment technique. Unfortunately, our source water has proven to be very difficult to treat for DBP precursors, and a simple solution has eluded us so far. We requested and received a year's extension of the study funding and plan to continue testing on through the winter of 2017 - 2018.

Actual construction of the chosen treatment system will be funded separately from the current grant, which is based on Westhaven's status as a State Disadvantaged Community (DAC). ***Unfortunately, subsequent to receiving the current grant, the State's methods for determining DAC status have changed, and Westhaven no longer has DAC classification. We believe that we still qualify, but to establish DAC status we will most likely have to conduct an income survey of the residents of the District. You will be getting more information as the time draws closer, and we will very much appreciate your help and cooperation in completing the survey.***

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. We have focused our testing on this second approach, and thus far have thoroughly evaluated the options of activated carbon and ion exchange resin. Activated carbon was found to be very effective for very short runs, which means it would have to be changed often and therefore be prohibitively expensive. The ion exchange resin was found to be less effective than activated carbon. We are

currently in the beginning stages of evaluating treatment with a combination of hydrogen peroxide and ultra-violet light to reduce TOCs, followed by chlorine disinfection.

**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.**

### **IN CONCLUSION**

We are having busy times, working on overdue upgrades to our infrastructure and treatment systems. 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 WCSD's regular monthly meetings, usually on the third Wednesday of each month, at 7:30 pm at the Westhaven Fire Hall at 446 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:wcsd@suddenlinkmail.com)

Thank you!

### **Trinidad Bay Watershed Council**

Are you interested in learning more about what you can do to improve and protect our local watersheds and related resources? Visit the TBWC table at the Trinidad Fish Festival on June 18, 2017 or on the web at [www.trinidadwatersheds.org](http://www.trinidadwatersheds.org) or contact Becky Price-Hall at [rpricehall@trinidad.ca.gov](mailto:rpricehall@trinidad.ca.gov)

### **ABOUT TBWC**

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The mission of the Trinidad Bay Watershed Council (TBWC) is to work collaboratively to improve and maintain the watersheds, coastal waters, communities in the Trinidad and Westhaven area for the benefit of all community members.

TBWC Meetings are held quarterly in January, April, July and October (or November). We discuss watershed issues, provide input on proposed projects, hear partner updates, and plan watershed-related activities. All are welcome to attend our meetings.

### **TRINIDAD BAY WATERSHED COUNCIL GOALS**

- Participate in the development, implementation and evaluation of the Trinidad-Westhaven Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plan (Watershed Plan).
- Provide input and participate in the updates of the Humboldt County General Plan and the City of Trinidad General Plan.
- Foster partnerships and coordination with local community members, state and federal agencies, and other local & regional water resource related efforts.
- Develop and support opportunities for economic and community development that improve well-being for residents, the community, local businesses and the coastal ecosystem.
- Promote stewardship of the land, natural and cultural resources in the Trinidad Bay coastal area through education, outreach, and technical and financial assistance.
- Promote improvement and maintenance of public and private roads in the Trinidad Bay Watersheds through work with the County, the City of Trinidad, landowners, businesses and community members.