

WESTHAVEN COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT



P.O. Box 2015 (446 B 6th Ave. Westhaven) Trinidad CA 95570 (707) 677-0798 wcsd@suddenlinkmail.com

WCSD NEWS

APRIL 2018

TO: Westhaven CSD Customers

FROM: Westhaven CSD Board of Directors:

David Hankin - President
 Bill Verick - Vice President
 Steven Phipps - Finance Officer
 Michael Moon - Safety Officer
 Barbara Cline - 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

January 2017 brought the resignation of long-time Board President Greg Smith. Smith served on the Board from 1995 – 1999 and again from 2005 through 2017. Smith’s seat was filled by Barbara Cline in January 2018. Cline has previously served on the Board, from 1997 through 2006.

2018-2019 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*.

At the April 18 meeting the Board approved a draft budget that included an increase of \$0.92 (1.86%) in the monthly Base Rate and an estimated increase of \$1.64 (1.87%) increase in the average monthly water bill.

A summary of the proposed rate increase is as follows:

Base Rate Increases from **\$49.40** to **\$50.32** per month, billed in advance.

Single Commodity Rate Increases from **\$14.07** to **\$14.17** per 1,000 gallons per month

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

EXAMPLES OF MONTHLY BILLS	CURRENT	2018 - 2019	INCREASE (DECREASE)
BASE	\$49.40	\$50.32	0.92
NO WATER INCLUDED IN BASE CHARGE			
	TOTAL / MONTH		
0 gallons per month	\$49.40	\$50.32	0.92
50 gallons per day = 1,500 gallons per month	\$70.51	\$71.58	1.07
100 gallons per day = 3,000 gallons per month	\$91.61	\$92.84	1.23
150 gallons per day = 4,500 gallons per month	\$112.72	\$114.10	1.38
200 gallons per day = 6,000 gallons per month	\$133.83	\$135.36	1.53
250 gallons per day = 7,500 gallons per month	\$154.94	\$156.62	1.68
300 gallons per day = 9,000 gallons per month	\$176.05	\$177.88	1.83
Avg. monthly bill increase for active accounts (204)			\$1.45

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 \$4,319 in an annual total budget of \$234,947, which includes \$3,318 for a 1.5% cost of living increase for the District's three employees (one full time, two part time). The COLA equals an average of \$1.19 per customer per month. Also, in 2019 we expect to begin making semi-annual loan payments of \$2,690 on the loan portion of \$26,900 in the Disinfection By-Products Project funding.

The proposed budget will be discussed again at the May 16 and June 20, 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 20 Board meeting and participate in the public hearing.

JUNE 20, 2018—WESTHAVEN FIRE HALL—446 6TH AVENUE—7:30 PM



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 replaced the deteriorating roof on the existing tank. 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 2017, and construction began in July. Construction was completed in September, and the new roof on the old tank was completed in October.

DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS - UPDATE

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.

Unfortunately, our source water has proven to be very difficult to treat for DBP precursors, and a simple and/or economically feasible solution has eluded us thus far. We requested and received a year's extension of the study funding and planned to continue testing on through the winter of 2017 - 2018. However, dissatisfied with our lack of progress toward a solution, the State Water Board Department of Financial Assistance terminated our access to the funding in December 2017 and served us with a Compliance Order requiring that a solution be identified by March 31, 2018 and implemented by December 31, 2018. Following our request for an extension, the March deadline was extended to June 30, 2018.

In the meantime, we have been focusing our efforts on developing additional sources of groundwater to supplement our supply from the 4th Ave. well, which is free from the contaminants that produce DBPs.

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.

Furthermore, our recent accomplishments have produced significant improvements in the water system.

The upgrade to the distribution system has resulted in major decreases in water loss as well as maintenance and repair expenses. The new storage tank and repairs to the old tank have doubled our storage capacity and added many years to the life expectancy of the old tank.

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.

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!

WESTHAVEN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Westhaven Volunteer Fire Department has immediate openings for new members. Joining the WVFD is a great way to support the community and get to know your neighbors. Training is provided!

Contact the Department at WesthavenFire@gmail.com.

You can also connect on Facebook – [Westhaven Volunteer Fire Department](#)

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 17, 2018](#) or on the web at www.trinidadwatersheds.org or contact Becky Price-Hall at rpricehall@trinidad.ca.gov

ABOUT TBWC

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.