

# WESTHAVEN COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT



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

## WCSD NEWS

## APRIL 2019

**TO: Westhaven CSD Customers**

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

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

**Westhaven CSD Staff:**

Paul Rosenblatt - Manager / Operator  
 Charles (Milo) Butterworth IV - 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 Staff

August 2018 brought the retirement of long-time General Manager Richard Swisher. Swisher served as the General Manager from January 1988 – August 2018 and was the first General Manager the District had upon its formation. Richard Swisher was replaced by Paul Rosenblatt on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2018. Paul has lived in the Westhaven area since 1989 and has been a certified Water Treatment Operator since 2012. Jamie Vincent our longtime water operator left the district in October 2018. Jamie started working for the district in 1998. Charles (Milo) Butterworth IV replaced Jamie in December of 2018. Paul and Milo both hold Water Treatment Operator grade 2 and Water Distribution grade 2 certification. We thank both Richard and Jamie for their long and exemplary service to the district and community and wish them well in their future endeavors.

### 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 19 Board meeting*.

At the April 17 meeting the Board approved a draft budget that included an increase of \$0.14 (0.28%) in the monthly Base Rate and an estimated increase of \$0.71 (5.04%) 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)
<b>BASE</b>	<b>50.32</b>	<b>\$50.46</b>	<b>0.92</b>
<b>NO WATER INCLUDED IN BASE CHARGE</b>			
0 gallons per month	\$50.32	\$50.46	0.14
50 gallons per day = 1,500 gallons per month	\$71.58	\$72.79	1.21
100 gallons per day = 3,000 gallons per month	\$92.84	\$95.11	2.27
150 gallons per day = 4,500 gallons per month	\$114.10	\$117.44	3.34
200 gallons per day = 6,000 gallons per month	\$135.36	\$139.77	4.41

250 gallons per day = 7,500 gallons per month	\$156.62	\$162.09	5.47
300 gallons per day = 9,000 gallons per month	\$177.88	\$184.42	6.54
Avg. monthly bill increase for active accounts (204)			\$3.87

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

This next year’s operating budget proposes a total increase in expenses of \$7862 in an annual total budget of \$240,498, This year there is a s1.7% cost of living increase for the District’s three employees (one full time, two part time). The COLA this year does not increase customer rates because of the new Manager and Operator..

The proposed budget will be discussed again at the May 15 and June 19, 2019 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 19 Board meeting and participate in the public hearing.***

**JUNE 19, 2019—WESTHAVEN FIRE HALL—446 6TH AVENUE—6:30 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. In September of 2018 the year inspection of the new tank was done and it is in great condition. The additional storage capacity has allowed us to stop treating turbid storm water from the springs during most heavy rain events. .

## **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 June of 2018 a request was made for a second extension of the compliance order which was granted giving us until December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 to return to compliance. In August of 2018 we started the long process of working on another SRF planning grant application to dig test wells on our existing well property and two adjacent parcels that were donated to the district by Tim Crowley the owner of North Coast Fabricators. The district has been working with engineers and the California Department of Drinking water and California Department of Water Resources to complete this. It is hoped that we will find additional ground water to blend the surface water with thereby greatly lowering the amount of Disinfection By-Products and bringing our numbers into compliance. This is the least expensive most straightforward way for the district to achieve compliance. Thus we have been focusing our efforts on developing additional sources of groundwater to supplement our supply from the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 6:30 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!**

### **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](mailto: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 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. 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.