

WESTHAVEN COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT



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

WCSD NEWS

MAY 2021

TO: Westhaven CSD Customers

FROM: Westhaven CSD Board of Directors:

Westhaven CSD Staff:

Bill Verick - President	Paul Rosenblatt General Manager / Operator T2/D2
Barbara Cline Vice President	Charles (Milo) Butterworth IV Operator T2/D2
David Hankin Finance Officer	Roxanne Levang - Secretary / Bookkeeper
Richard Swisher Safety Officer	Katrina Martin Sampler / Operator in training
Vacant Board Member (will be appointed on May 19 th 2021)	

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.

2021-2022 Operating Budget and Water Rates

The District's operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year is scheduled for public comment at the May 19th and June 16th Board meetings and final approval in a *public hearing at the June 16th Board meeting*.

At the April 21st Board meeting the Board approved a draft budget that included an increase of \$3.73 (+6.89%) in the monthly Base Rate, a increase in the commodity rate of \$0.49 /1,000 gallons (+3.29%), resulting in an average monthly water bill increase of \$5.07 (5.35%)

A summary of the proposed rate increase is as follows:

Base Rate Increases from **\$54.14** to **\$57.87** per month, billed in advance.

Single Commodity Rate Increases from **\$14.74** to **\$15.23** per 1,000 gallons per month

EXAMPLES OF MONTHLY BILLS	CURRENT	2020-2021	INCREASE (DECREASE)
BASE	\$54.14	\$57.87	3.73
NO WATER INCLUDED IN BASE CHARGE	TOTAL / MO		
0 gallons per month	54.14	\$57.87	3.73
50 gallons per day = 1,500 gallons per month	\$76.25	\$80.71	4.46
100 gallons per day = 3,000 gallons per month	\$98.36	\$103.55	5.19
150 gallons per day = 4,500 gallons per month	\$120.44	\$126.39	5.95
200 gallons per day = 6,000 gallons per month	\$142.58	\$149.22	6.64
250 gallons per day = 7,500 gallons per month	\$164.69	\$172.06	7.37
300 gallons per day = 9,000 gallons per month	\$186.80	\$194.90	8.10
Avg. monthly bill increase for active accounts (204)			6.28

This next year's operating budget proposes a total increase in expenses of \$13,657 in an annual total budget of \$263,841, This year there is a 1.2% cost of living increase for the District's four employees (one full time, three part time). This year's annual rate increases are driven by increases in electricity costs, testing costs, insurance costs, and staff costs such as workers compensation insurance and the state minimum wage law increases. The biggest cost is compliance with the state's minimum wage regulations which requires that exempt salaried administrative employees must make twice the current state minimum wage (\$13/hr in 2021) x2= \$26/hr. A similar increase will be experienced in 2022 (minimum of \$14/hr.x2=\$28/hr). These increases have been budgeted into the rate increase

The proposed budget will be discussed again at the May 19th and June 16th 2021 WCSD Board meetings. The budget will be adopted at the June 16th Board meeting. These Zoom meetings are scheduled to begin at 6:30 PM and will be posted in advance of meetings on the District Office and Fire Hall Bulletin boards. Your questions and comments are always most welcome.

*WCSD billing regulations also include provisions for water bill adjustments following unavoidable leaks on a customer's property IF the leak is promptly repaired. The leak adjustments reduce some of the water use income that would otherwise go to the District, but this income would be an "unexpected windfall" (due to the leak) rather than typical revenue from water sales. **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.

Fiscal Year 2020-2021 brought many leaks from July through March we experienced a leak every two weeks on average which kept us busy. These pipes were installed in 1968 by the Westhaven Mutual Water Company. Please note that the leaks will not affect rates. The district sets aside about 5% of its funds every year for Capital and Operating reserves to fund unexpected costs such as emergencies, repairs, and for long term Capital improvements. We continue to seek grant funding for replacement of three plus miles of this 1968 era water pipe.

COVID-19 response: (1) The WCSD Office is still closed to the public, but we are taking payments through the door slot. We are available in person by appointment only (**with masks**). We look forward to reopening the office as the State and County restrictions are relaxed. (2) The WCSD Board voted to temporarily suspend shutoffs of water service during the COVID-19 situation a month before the State Mandate to do so. We are your neighbors and are committed to working with you. While this is a temporary relief, it is not a debt forgiveness program. If you are behind on your bill please call the General Manager (Paul Rosenblatt) at 707-677-0798 to talk about your situation and work out a payment plan based on your needs. (3) As a way to enhance flexibility in payment options we are taking credit and debit card payments. Call us and leave a message and we will call back to get your information and process your payment. There is a 4% service charge to cover the bank charges. (4) WCSD is excited to have web page please check it out at westhavencsd.org

DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS - UPDATE

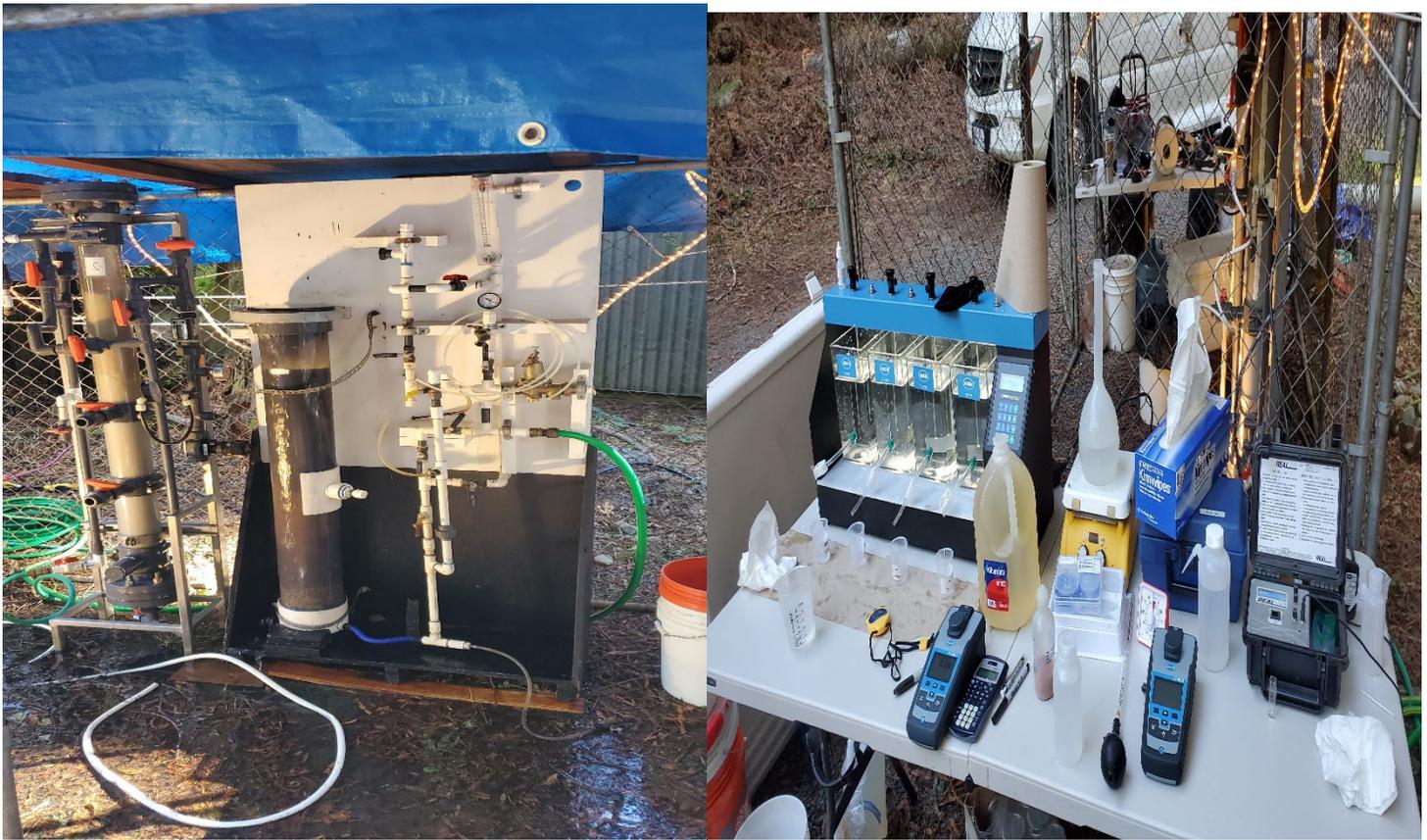
In November of 2006 following new EPA and State regulations we began quarterly sampling for two groups of DBPs, Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) at a point thought likely to represent the longest residence time in the distribution system. Since 2006 our running average (the average 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.. On December 12th 2017 we were issued a Compliance Order requiring that a solution be identified by March 31, 2018 and a solution implemented by December 31, 2018. Following our requests for three separate extensions in February of 2020 we received another extension which gives us until December 31st 2022 to return to compliance.

Unfortunately, our source water has proven to be very difficult to treat for DBP precursors, and a simple and/or economically feasible solution eluded us for a decade. In 2010 we started on a long journey of getting various funding from the state and working with numerous engineers to try and find a solution to our problem that didn't require building a new water treatment plant and with state funding levels available at that time there was no way for the WCSD and its customers to afford to build a project like that.

In 2018 we started a ground water exploration project working on developing additional sources of groundwater to augment our supply from the 4th Ave. well, which is low in the total and dissolved organic carbon compounds that produce DBPs. As of writing of this newsletter, the District is working on drilling 2 test wells at our Fourth Avenue property. We are in the permit stages for a well on First Ave. It is hoped that we will find some additional ground water to blend with the surface water from Two Creeks, thereby greatly lowering the amount of Disinfection By-Products and helping to bring our DBP numbers into compliance. This is most important during the winter rains.

Technical Assistance Grant

In January of 2020 the District applied for a technical assistance grant through the State Water Resources Control Board Department of Financial Assistance for \$440,000. The purpose of this grant is to provide the district with prefunded engineering services for investigations into the following: (a) Surface water and groundwater blending for DBP reduction using the existing 4th Ave. groundwater well source (not currently used for blending) and considering additional groundwater supplies that may be available upon completion of the concurrent groundwater well pilot testing project; and (b) Treatment and filtration enhancements for TOC/DBP precursor reduction. We partnered with Pace Engineering to work on pilot water treatment studies as well as testing blending. We conducted dry weather tests in October of 2020 and wet weather tests in the end of January and beginning of February 2021 and both pilot tests resulted in substantial reduction in TOC/DOC and DBP's. Therefore a treatment process has been established that is effective, a new water treatment plant designed, and an application for construction funding will be made in June 2021. Because the geographic area within the Westhaven CSD boundaries is considered a disadvantaged community by the state this \$9 Million water treatment plant project is eligible to be funded entirely with grant funding from the Division of Financial Assistance: DFA. This new water treatment plant will result in long-term improvements in treatment and the use of all existing and potential water supplies to give the community of Westhaven drinking water which reliably complies with the drinking water standards. It will also increase water storage, enhancing resiliency. It further allows us to live within the water supply provided by our Two Creek's watershed and groundwater within our own community. .



2020-21 Westhaven CSD State of California DFA Technical Assistance Grant: PACE Engineering Pilot Water Treatment Plant

DEFENSIBLE SPACE / FUELS REDUCTION at the WATER TREATMENT PLANT: in 2019 the District partnered with Cal-Fire to create the required minimum 30 foot defensible space and a 100' foot reduced fuel zone around all critical facilities. Also a fuel break on the access roads at the water plant has been created as well as around the pond's. District staff is continuing to enhance this zone every year. Although rare, there have been at least three historically significant wind driven fires burning thousands of acres in the Trinidad and Westhaven area. Please join us in enhancing your defensible space on your property, around your home and on access roads.

IN CONCLUSION

We are having busy times, continuing work on overdue upgrades to our distribution 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, the past six years accomplishments have produced significant improvements in the water system. The replacement of almost a mile of the distribution system helped reduce water loss as well as maintenance and repair expenses. The new 100,000 gallon 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. The additional storage capacity has allowed us to reduce the amount of turbid storm water we treat from the springs during most heavy rain events. **This has led to a measurable decrease in disinfection by products and has reduced the number of quarters in which the district was in violation of the maximum contaminant levels for DBP's**

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. Currently these meetings are held via Zoom, but normally they are held 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 or emergency notifications via text message and or email just send an email to us at wcsd@suddenlinkmail.com and provide us with a cell phone number and email address.

Be sure to check out our web site at westhavencsd.org 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 them at WesthavenFire@gmail.com. Or connect on Facebook – Westhaven Volunteer Fire Department

Donations or correspondence can be sent to the Westhaven Volunteer Fire Dept. Po Box 2143 Trinidad Ca 95570

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? 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. Visit them on the web at www.trinidadwatersheds.org or contact Becky Price- at rpricehall@trinidad.ca.gov to sign up for the TBWC email list.