



PRESS RELEASE

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PLEASANTON SET TO INCREASE WATER & SEWER RATES *Modest Increase Set to Take Effect October 15, 2015*

Pleasanton, CA—The Pleasanton City Council moved to increase water & sewer rates by 6.7% and 3%, respectively. This increase is needed in order to capture the total amount of operating expenses of purchased water, to responsibly fund the repair and replacement costs of aging infrastructure, and to diversify our water portfolio by increasing the amount of recycled water we use. The rate changes are scheduled to take effect October 15, 2015.

Based on a comprehensive study of water & sewer rates, it was confirmed that the City of Pleasanton was collecting only 87.5% of the cost to purchase water from Zone 7 Water Agency (our area's water wholesaler). As water and sewer utilities are considered enterprise funds and need to be self-sustaining, the City Council voted unanimously for the increase so that the fund can be self-sufficient.

“It’s never an easy decision to raise rates, especially when we’ve all done what we’ve been asked to do in terms of conserving water and then some,” said Nelson Fialho, City Manager for Pleasanton. “While the City was able to absorb the difference for the past few years, what we realized after a careful and thorough fiscal analysis is that we needed a make a rate adjustment in order to cover the full cost of buying water, as well as maintain our high quality of life and standard of service.”

The City contracted with HDR Engineering, Inc. to conduct the water and sewer rate study and worked with staff and an audit committee for a year to review the accounts and expenditures to determine if there were discrepancies in existing customer accounts and whether costs could be

reduced without sacrificing service. In both cases, adjustments were made that reflected a smaller increase in rates than would have otherwise been made had the audit not been performed.

“Because we recognize that this may not be easy for every ratepayer to absorb, we still have in place our discount programs, aimed at helping those who may need it and who are eligible for either the low income discount or the senior discount,” Fialho said.

Income-eligible ratepayers can receive a 30% discount, whereas seniors (those 65 years of age and older) may apply for a 20% discount. Water usage may not exceed 30 CCF units in a billing period. The national average consumption is 23 CCF. To apply for a discount, contact the Operations Services Center at 925.931.5500.

The rate impact for the average residential user for their combined water and sewer bill based on 30 CCF units used per month will be approximately \$5.37 monthly or \$10.73 bi-monthly.

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