

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Regarding Proposed Rate Increases for City Sewer Services**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on **November 25, 2008**, in the **City Council Chambers, Dixon City Hall, 600 East A Street**, during the Regular Meeting of the Dixon City Council beginning at **7:00 p.m.**, to consider sewer (wastewater) service rate increases to commence on January 1, 2009.

**Explanation of Rate Increases**

If adopted, the proposed sewer service rate increases will be implemented over the next three (3) years on January 1 of 2009, 2010, and 2011, as shown in the table below. Sewer service rates will remain unchanged after December 31, 2011, unless subsequently revised by the City Council. The amount of your utility bill will depend on your customer type (residential rates are different than non-residential rates).

Sewer service rates for single-family residential customers are based on a fixed rate plus a variable rate. The variable rate is based upon winter consumptive use (water use from December through March), excluding landscape irrigation water use. The variable rate is used as a reflection of customer use of sewer facilities (amount of sewer or wastewater that is discharged into sewer facilities). As a point of reference, the average winter water use for a single-family residential customer is 1000 cubic feet or 10 CCF (one CCF is equal to 100 cubic feet) of water per month. Sewer service rates for duplexes, tri-plexes, four-plexes, apartments and mobile homes are flat rates.

Sewer service rates for non-residential customers, excluding schools, are determined annually by adding the applicable "Base Charge" (listed in the table below) to the applicable "Usage Charge" (listed in the table below) multiplied by the average monthly water usage from the preceding 12-month period or 6-month winter period, whichever is less. Sewer service rates for schools are based on the average daily attendance (ADA).

**Current and Proposed Sewer (Wastewater) Rates**

(current rates were implemented in July 2005)

**Residential (\$/month per DU)**

|                           | <u>Current</u> | <u>January 1, 2009</u> | <u>January 1, 2010</u> | <u>January 1, 2011</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Single Family             |                |                        |                        |                        |
| Up to 3 CCF               | \$15.65        | \$15.37                | \$17.00                | \$17.32                |
| 4 CCF                     | \$15.65        | \$16.56                | \$18.31                | \$18.66                |
| 5 CCF                     | \$15.65        | \$17.74                | \$19.61                | \$19.99                |
| 6 CCF                     | \$15.65        | \$18.92                | \$20.92                | \$21.32                |
| 7 CCF                     | \$15.65        | \$20.10                | \$22.23                | \$22.65                |
| 8 CCF                     | \$15.65        | \$21.29                | \$23.54                | \$23.99                |
| 9 CCF                     | \$15.65        | \$22.47                | \$24.84                | \$25.32                |
| 10 CCF                    | \$15.65        | \$23.65                | \$26.15                | \$26.65                |
| 11 CCF                    | \$15.65        | \$24.83                | \$27.46                | \$27.98                |
| 12 CCF                    | \$15.65        | \$26.02                | \$28.77                | \$29.32                |
| 13 CCF                    | \$15.65        | \$27.20                | \$30.07                | \$30.65                |
| 14 CCF                    | \$15.65        | \$28.38                | \$31.38                | \$31.98                |
| 15 CCF                    | \$15.65        | \$29.56                | \$32.69                | \$33.31                |
| 16 CCF                    | \$15.65        | \$30.75                | \$34.00                | \$34.65                |
| 17 CCF                    | \$15.65        | \$31.93                | \$35.30                | \$35.98                |
| 18 CCF and Over           | \$15.65        | \$33.11                | \$36.61                | \$37.31                |
| Duplex, Triplex, Fourplex | \$12.50        | \$18.92                | \$20.92                | \$21.32                |
| Apartments & Mobile Homes | \$12.50        | \$18.92                | \$20.92                | \$21.32                |

**Non-Residential (excluding schools)**

|                               | <u>Current</u> | <u>January 1, 2009</u> | <u>January 1, 2010</u> | <u>January 1, 2011</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Base Charge (\$/month)</b> |                |                        |                        |                        |
| 5/8" meter                    | \$6.00         | \$9.07                 | \$10.03                | \$10.22                |
| 3/4" meter                    | \$8.65         | \$13.07                | \$14.45                | \$14.73                |
| 1" meter                      | \$14.00        | \$21.16                | \$23.39                | \$23.84                |
| 1 1/2" meter                  | \$27.25        | \$41.18                | \$45.53                | \$46.40                |
| 2" meter                      | \$43.10        | \$65.13                | \$72.02                | \$73.39                |
| 3" meter                      | \$80.05        | \$120.97               | \$133.76               | \$136.32               |
| 4" meter                      | \$133.05       | \$201.06               | \$222.32               | \$226.57               |

**Usage Charge (\$/CCF of water use)**

|                 |        |        |        |        |
|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Low Strength    | \$1.02 | \$1.54 | \$1.70 | \$1.74 |
| Medium Strength | \$1.35 | \$2.04 | \$2.26 | \$2.30 |
| High Strength   | \$2.27 | \$3.43 | \$3.79 | \$3.87 |

**Schools**

|  | <u>Current</u> | <u>January 1, 2009</u> | <u>January 1, 2010</u> | <u>January 1, 2011</u> |
|--|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|--|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|

Schools (\$/month per ADA)

\$0.32

\$0.48

\$0.53

\$0.54

### **Reasons for the Rate Increases**

The reasons for these proposed sewer service rate increases are to fund required sewer collection, treatment and disposal system programs and improvement projects to:

- (1) meet California Regional Water Quality Control Board mandated sewer discharge limits by January 2014,
- (2) repair existing sewer collection system pipelines and manholes to control infiltration and inflow,
- (3) replace and/or repair deteriorating existing treatment plant pipelines and electrical systems, and
- (4) modify the existing groundwater monitoring system and perform groundwater studies to support future requests for reductions in the State mandated discharge limits.

On September 23, 2008, the City received a revised Cease and Desist Order (CDO) from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, CDO No. R5-2008-0136, which includes a series of regulatory actions, technical studies, reports, and sewer treatment plant improvements the City must complete within specified dates to meet revised mandated sewer discharge limits for the City's existing sewer treatment plant. The proposed sewer service rates were developed based upon engineering cost estimates to perform the investigations, studies, designs and construction of system improvements within the schedule necessary to meet the requirements of the CDO. The rate schedule was developed to provide adequate funding within the first three years to perform the necessary programs and projects of immediate necessity, and to provide adequate funding to pay debt service of major sewer system improvements proposed to be funded in Fiscal Years 2011/12 and 2012/13 through a low interest State Revolving Fund loan. Supporting documents, including a list of proposed programs and projects, cost estimates, and a copy of the Financing Plan and Sewer Rate Study may be viewed on the City of Dixon website at [www.ci.dixon.ca.us](http://www.ci.dixon.ca.us).

### **How do I oppose the proposed rate increase?**

Interested parties can comment on the proposed rates. California law prohibits the City from implementing the sewer service rate increases if a majority of the affected property owners file written protests opposing the proposed sewer service rate increases prior to the close of the public hearing on November 25, 2008. If you oppose the proposed sewer service rate increases, your protest must be submitted in writing to the City Clerk. The address to send written protests is:

**City Clerk of the City of Dixon  
600 East A Street  
Dixon, CA 95620**

**Written protests must be received prior to the close of the public hearing on November 25, 2008.** Written protests must contain (1) a description of the property, such as the street address or the Assessor's Parcel Number (included on the mailing label of this Notice), (2) the name and signature of the record property owner, and (3) written evidence that the signer is the owner of the property, if the signer was not shown on the last equalized assessment roll for Solano County as the record property owner. Please indicate that it is the sewer (wastewater) service rate increase that you are protesting.

### **Can I oppose the proposed rate increase if I am a tenant and not the record property owner?**

Only written protests from record property owners are considered in determining whether a majority of the affected property owners oppose the proposed sewer service rate increases. However, the City welcomes input from tenants and will accept written protests from tenants as advisory protests.

### **Who should I call with questions?**

If you have questions about the proposed sewer (wastewater) rate increases, or any other questions relating to sewer utility services, please call Royce W. Cunningham, City Engineer, at (707) 678-7031 Ext. 305.