

Westport County Water District
P.O. Box 55
Westport, Ca 95488
(707) 962-1602

April 8, 2017

Dear Westport County Water District Rate Payer:

The Westport County Water District Board of Directors has scheduled a public hearing on June 3 at 10:00 am, at the Westport Firehouse, regarding a proposed rate increase to take effect in the 2017/2018 fiscal year, starting July 1, 2017.

The District has operated without raising rates for five years, but we are now facing new and increased expenses that cannot be met with our present rate structure. These expenses include, but are not limited to, unfunded state mandates, higher license and testing fees, basic cost of living increases, and higher maintenance costs.

The Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), with a grant from the California State Resources Control Board (SWRCB), has produced a *Westport County Water District Water and Wastewater Rate Study* that strongly recommends overall rate increases. (A copy of this document is available by email upon request, as are itemized budgets for each of the past five years.)

As rate payers ourselves, we are well aware of the effect of a rate increase on household budgets. However, as Board members we have a fiduciary responsibility to charge rates that maintain the overall quality of the systems that deal with our water and sewage. We have an ethical responsibility as well: the health and welfare of those who live within the district are dependent on the health of the water and sewer systems.

To minimize the impact on rate payers, we have structured these increases (combined water/sewer) as follows:

	Residential	Commercial
Current:	\$166	\$262
2017/2018	\$185	\$291
2018/2019	\$196	\$308
2019/2020	\$204	\$320
2020/2021	\$209	\$328
2021/2022	\$214	\$336

These increases amount to about 29% over the next five years, allowing us to match our operating expenses and build the reserves we need to maintain our infrastructure and cover emergency expenditures.

We encourage all interested parties, both within the water district and in the larger community, to attend the meeting on June 3rd. We want to hear your questions and comments. If you wish to protest the rate increase, your protest must be submitted in writing, either by mail or in person, before the end of the public meeting. You must include your service address. Email protests will not be accepted.

Please note also that all regular WCWD board meetings are open to the public. Regular meetings are at 10:00 am on the second Saturday of each month, at the Westport Firehouse. Our next meeting is May 13th. We welcome your attendance and comments.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors, Westport County Water District:

David Brothers
 Steve Cardullo
 Lee Tepper
 Jeff Whitehouse
 Ann Woodhead