

# **Notice to Property Owners: Proposed Rate Actions by County of San Bernardino, Special Districts Department, Water and Sanitation Division, County Service Area 53, Zone B (District)**

The County of San Bernardino Board of Supervisors (Board), acting as the governing body of the District, is considering an increase in sewer rates for all classes of users, effective Fiscal Year 2011/12. The rate increase is primarily driven by higher wastewater treatment costs; capital improvements designed to increase system efficiency; and higher than normal delinquencies on collections. The Board will make its decision following a public hearing to be held Tuesday, June 7, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. at the County Government Center, 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, Board Chambers First Floor in San Bernardino, California.

The proposed increase in the sewer rate is applied uniformly to customers based on industry factors that reflect the cost for collection, treatment and disposal of the wastewater generated by each customer. Please note that sewer bills will continue to be sent bi-monthly.

Rates are reviewed and recalculated annually using an intensive review process that includes use of projection models and interface with Operations, Administration and Engineering professionals. Factors to be considered include level of revenue needed to fund current plans for future infrastructure (repair and replacement); cover cash flow needs; provide reserve requirements; cover anticipated operating costs; and ensure continued system integrity and service delivery. Fiscal year 2011/12 increase of 3% is recommended to cover inflationary increases in operating costs while allowing District to maintain appropriate reserve levels. In addition to the required inflationary factor, decreased interest revenues have caused a reduction in funding of approximately \$65,000 between Fiscal years 2007/08 and 2010/11. Capital Improvements between 2009/10 and 2010/11 are approximately \$106,000 for vacuum system upgrades, and \$50,000 is budgeted in 2011/12 for relining the sewer lines.

### **SANITATION**

<b>2010/2011 Monthly User Fee Per EDU (Equivalent Dwelling Unit)</b>	<b>2011/2012 Monthly User Fee Per EDU (Equivalent Dwelling Unit)</b>
\$52.61	\$54.19

### **The Public Hearing**

The public hearing will be held at the **Board's regular meeting of Tuesday, June 7, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. at the County Government Center, 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, Board Chambers First Floor in San Bernardino, California.** At the hearing, the Board proposes to adopt a resolution that establishes sewer increases and the charges as outlined above.

Customers may respond to proposed rate increases prior to the public hearing by filing a written protest. A valid protest must contain a description of the property (address or Assessors Parcel Number) sufficient to identify the property, the signature of the property owner of record, or written evidence that the signer is the owner if he or she is not named on the last tax roll.

Protests can be mailed or personally delivered to: the Special Districts Department, Water and Sanitation Division at 12402 Industrial Boulevard, Building D, Suite 6, Victorville, California 92395. All protests must be received by the District by 5:00 p.m. on June 6, 2011, or it must be presented at the Board meeting on June 7, 2011, prior to the close of the public hearing on the matter. If a majority of affected property owners file written protests, the proposed rate changes will not be put into effect. Note that no more than one protest per parcel may be submitted.

For further questions, please call (800) 554-0565 or (760) 955-9885.

**NOTE:** *This notice was mailed using current billing records. You may receive more than one copy if you own multiple properties or own property under more than one name. We regret any inconvenience.*