

5/31/15

We are writing to protest the adoption of sewer rate increases. We are in a mobile home park and are trying to live on social security, as most of our neighbors are also doing. The increase of \$7.31 doesn't seem like much but it could be the difference of a gallon of milk and a loaf of bread, or a prescription. Our sewer bill last month was more than the total of our gas and electric bills combined.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

2015 JUN -4 PM 4:13

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CLERK OF THE
SUPERIOR COURT

Cherie A. Brause

Sidney Davis

1111111111

1111111111

#2

June 4th, 2015
Santa Maria, Ca.

Laguna County Sanitation District Board of Directors
4th Floor County Administration Building
105 East Anapamu Street,
Santa Barbara, Ca. 93101

Dear Directors,

Re: Notice of Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Rates and Fees dated April 28, 2015.

I strongly protest against and object to any increase in the Laguna Sanitation District rates or fees.

The following are some of the reasons why:

1. The current rates are already excessively high. Most sewer service is about \$20/month. Bakersfield charges \$13.86/month for a single family residence. Visalia charges \$26.45 (\$13.25 for seniors) monthly. Ventura charges \$19.96 bi-monthly. San Luis Obispo is less than \$10/month and Las Vegas is \$60.33 quarterly or \$20.11 monthly. The city of Santa Maria charges \$75 monthly for Trash and Sewer together.
2. When the cost of sewer is more than the cost for water, something is drastically wrong.
3. For Seniors on fixed or declining incomes, a rate increase is unwelcome and an unneeded hardship.
4. With the current water restrictions there will be less sewage and therefore less demand for increased sewage treatment.
5. Fees were just raised a little over a year ago.
6. The current excessively high fees (2 to 8 times more than that of most cities as cited above) suggest serious problems in the management of the sewer district from possible diversion of funds, to ineptness, fraud, waste and/or abuse. A review by outside experts in sewage treatment should be conducted as well as an independent audit by an outside auditor.

I sincerely hope that the Laguna County Sanitation District will treat the county residents honestly and fairly and **reduce rather than increase the fees** to be compatible with the reasonable levels of most communities as cited above.

Sincerely,


H. Nolan Phillips

#2

APRIL 30, 2015

County Board of Supervisors
Hearing Room-511 East Lakeside Parkway
Santa Maria, Ca 93455

2015 MAY -4 PM 2:35

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CLERK OF THE
SUPERIOR COURT

Re: Laguna Sanitation raising Sewer rates

I am again this year attempting to argue that rates should not be raised again for the year 2015-2016.

I have lived in my house for 45 years and have seen the rates go up steadily, the only access I have to the increases has been on my property taxes from 2000-2001 to current 2014-2015. During this time the rate per year has gone from 194.54 to 814.04 and now Laguna has requested they go up to 910.60.

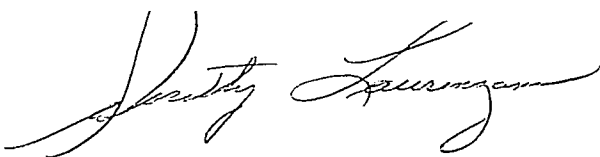
I am on a fixed income, as i'm sure a lot of the elderly homeowners are, and since my husband died nearly 3 years ago, i only have my social security to live on and this added expense does not make my life easier.

How in heavens name can you allow this company to raise their rates this much? This notice they sent us looks like junk mail, it is a flyer with one side addressed to "Current Resident" and the other side With Culligan and Rayne Water conditioning. I am attaching a copy of what was sent. Without thinking most of us would throw away this junk mail.

Just hopefully you will receive protests but probably not enough, as i can see there has to be a 51 percent of rejection before you would even consider it.

I will do my best to get out there and talk to people about this, and also sending a letter to the Santa Maria Times.

Dorothea Laurenzano



LAGUNA COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT
Serving Orcutt and Unincorporated Santa Maria Since 1958

Notice of Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Rates and Fees

Notice Date: April 28, 2015, Hearing Date: June 16, 2015

The Laguna County Sanitation District Board of Directors (Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors) will be conducting a hearing to consider adoption of sewer rates for fiscal year 2015-2016 on Tuesday June 16, 2015 at 9:00 am or thereafter at the board hearing room in the Betteravia Government Center at 511 East Lakeside Parkway in Santa Maria. As presented to the Board on October 11, 2011, the District is planning to replace and upgrade treatment facilities. A financial plan to accommodate current operating costs as well as the costs for the proposed improvements include a 1.2% increase for the next fiscal year. Residential customers are billed on a flat rate for single family and multiple family units, institutional customers are billed on a per capita basis, and commercial customers are billed based on water use and waste strength. The sewer charge is typically billed on the tax roll. A typical household would see an increase of \$8.13 per month. The table below shows the current and proposed rates:

Customer Type	Current Sewer Charge		Proposed Sewer Charge	
	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly
Single Family Residence	\$813.04	\$67.75	\$910.60	\$75.88
Multiple Family/Condo/Mobile	\$731.73	\$60.98	\$819.54	\$68.29
Commercial	Based on type, flow and loading		Based type, flow and loading	
Schools per Staff/Student	\$42.43/capita	\$3.53/capita	\$47.52/capita	\$3.96/capita

At the hearing, the Board shall consider written protests by property owners to the proposed action to increase the sewer charges. Written protests must include the owner's address or assessor's parcel number and should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board on the 4th floor of the County Administration Building at 105 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101. The rate increase will not be imposed if written protest by the majority of property owners is presented. Questions or comments may be directed to the Laguna County Sanitation District office at 620 West Foster Road in Santa Maria, CA 93455 or by phone at 805-739-8750.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

HELP PREVENT SEWER BACK-UPS

Regular Maintenance

Most sewer systems rely on gravity flow to operate. Your sewer lateral, which extends from your building to the sewer main, periodically requires maintenance to help prevent flow obstructions. The age and material of your lateral play a factor but ordinarily roots from trees and shrubs are attracted to water and if your lateral line is cracked, roots will grow towards the water source, enter the lateral line and eventually obstruct flow. Illegal disposal of substances such as cooking grease further contribute to plugging problems. Contact a licensed plumber or drain service for your maintenance needs.

Backwater Valve

Backwater valves are used on lateral lines to prevent back-ups due to obstructions in the main line. The District requires backwater valves on all new and replacement laterals. Existing building laterals must have backwater valves if the drainage fixtures are lower than the next upstream manhole cover. Only backwater valves approved by the California Plumbing Code may be used. Installation of such devices may require a permit and should periodically be inspected to ensure it is in good working order.

Additional Measures

Do not dispose of trash items such as toilet wipes or scrubs, or substances such as egg shells, cooking oil, fat or grease through the sewer. It is against the County Code for *anyone* to dispose of such substances from whatever source through the sewer. Commercial operations such as restaurants are required to have grease traps or interceptors and industrial waste generators are required to install a pre-treatment facilities to remove these wastes from the sewer system.

*** If you are not the property owner, please give this notice to your landlord, property manager or property owner.*

RECIPE FOR A FAT FREE SEWER 

Cooking oil and grease clog sewers. Keep them out of the drain by scraping plates and cookware clean and pour out all cooking oil and grease into a can or bag and dispose of in the trash. Use plastic bags to prevent leaks.

Exchange Your Water Softener and Save \$400!

If you have a regenerating water softener, the District, along with local water service companies, have a promotional opportunity to encourage you to install a canister exchange softener*. With removal of your regenerating water softener and proof of a canister exchange agreement, we will credit your account \$250. In addition, these local water service companies now offer new customer incentive programs which can save you an additional \$150 – for a total savings of \$400.



better water, pure and simple.
 (805) 922-3585
 700 West Cook Street
 Santa Maria, CA 93454
<http://www.eculligan.com>



Rayne
 Water Conditioning
 (805) 925-6555
 2239 South Oakley
 Santa Maria, CA 93454
<http://www.raynewater.com>

* This program is limited to residential homeowners who own an operable salt load regenerating water softener and are served by the Laguna County Sanitation District. Qualifying customer must enter into a 2-year service agreement with Culligan or Rayne. After proof of removal of existing regenerating water softener and a 2-year service agreement, the District will deposit \$250.00 to your water softener service account with either Culligan or Rayne. Early termination may result in penalties. For additional questions regarding wastewater treatment and the need to reduce salt, please call the Laguna County Sanitation District at 739-8750.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Laguna County Sanitation District will consider adopting sewer service rates and fees at a public hearing to be held as follows:

Date: June 16, 2015

Time: 9:00 am or thereafter

Place: County Board of Supervisors Hearing Room

511 East Lakeside Parkway
 Santa Maria CA 93455

County Board of Supervisors Hearing Room

105 East Anapamu Street
 Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Laguna County Sanitation District
 620 West Foster Road
 Santa Maria, CA 93455

PRSRT STD
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 Santa Maria, CA
 Permit #37



*****AUTO**SCH 5-DIGIT 93455
 Current Resident
 369 E Waller Ln
 Santa Maria CA 93455-2059

PLEASE DO NOT DISPOSE OF MEDICATIONS IN THE TOILET

You can dispose of your household medications for free at drop-boxes located at each of the Sheriff's nine substations throughout the county. Residents can bring all types of unwanted medications, including prescription and over-the-counter drugs. Please keep medications in their original containers and remove or scratch out all personal information, including name, address and phone number. The program is for the disposal of medications by individuals and households only. Medical professionals are not eligible. The nearest location is shown below:

Accepted Items

- Over-the-counter medications
- Prescription medications
- Medication samples
- Medications for household pets
- Medicated lotions

LOCAL COLLECTION

Santa Barbara County Sheriff
 912 A West Foster Road
 Santa Maria



Items NOT accepted

- Needles and other "sharps"
- Hazardous wastes
- Personal care products
- Empty medicine containers
- Thermometers

Sewer System Management

For your information, the Laguna County Sanitation District sewer collection system is regulated by the State Water Resources Control Board. A sewer system management plan addressing its operation can be viewed at :

6/5/15

Clerk of the Board
County Board of Supervisors

Regards Parcel Number
103-161-04-00.

I am writing in regards to the 12% rate increase for the next fiscal year by the Laguna County Sanitation District. In the past few years the rate has more than tripled. & the rate of 12% has increased from 7% in 2008 to 12% the last few years which seems extremely high.

2003	291.34
2008	408.20
2009	436.77
2010	519.47
2011	550.64
2012	589.18
2013	653.99
2014	725.97
2015	813.04
2016	910.60

2015 JUN 11 PM 2:46
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
CLERK OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Total Increase \$669.26

I would like to know what maintenance the District does, as I have never seen any type of maintenance done by the Laguna Sanitation District in this area.

I also do not think that the rate increase should be determined by written protest as you indicate in your notice.

"The rate increase will not be imposed if written protest by the majority of property owners is presented."

There is also the fact that the meeting is on a week day June 16th at 9^o AM. It would be difficult for some people to attend the meeting to address their concerns of this increase.

Thank You.

Mrs. Nancy Sorenson

CC: Steve Lavagnino

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