

#2



Dear Laguna sanitation district,

It seems to me that there has been a rate increase of at least twice in the last 3 or 4 years. (don't quote me because I am not here to argue about that) What I would like to say is that the rate increase of 12% is mighty high for a one year increase, especially since I recall at least two rate increases in the recent past. I am protesting the increase per the instructions listed on your letter, however I am not including my address because I would like to remain anonymous. Besides, you and I both know that 50% of the property owners are not going to write in to protest.

I would also like to add that the way that you implement the rate increase is not right. I think that it is unrealistic to require that 50% of the property owner must protest in writing for the increase to not be imposed. I doubt if 50% of the people in Orcutt vote let alone take the time to file a written protest. **Rather than have the resident write in to protest, why can't it be put on the ballot?**

I do hope the Board has the final say on this. I understand that prices go up but 12% is too much especially on the heels of at least two previous increases (which if I remember correctly were quite steep as well. You need to budget better. The public is not your cash cow that you can draw from. Have you tried to hunt money for improvements down through grants?

As for a little constructive criticism, I think that it would be beneficial to you if your letter had more information regarding the specifics of why the rate increase is needed. I tried going to the web to look up the report to find out all the details but after a half hour of searching I could not find it, and your letter contained no information on how to access information on the internet. That really doesn't matter because very few will look it up even if you post a web page (Besides, most people do not have the time to read a huge report because they have their own jobs to do and they do not need all the information). My suggestion to you is to provide the pertinent poop in the letter. You have half a sheet of paper that you could have used to convince the public why the 12% on top of previous increases are needed. So, next time just leave out the "help prevent sewer back-ups" section and replace it with that all important summary about why the rate increase is needed. Oh, and if there is any room left over a nice chart comparing our costs to other similar sewer districts would go a long way.