

**Daly, Julia Rutherford**

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**From:** Lenzi, Chelsea  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2017 1:19 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** FW: Laguna Sanitation District meeting June 20,2017  
**Attachments:** Letter of Protest.docx

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**From:** Chuck Williams [mailto:solomoncreek1950@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2017 11:03 AM  
**To:** Lenzi, Chelsea  
**Subject:** Laguna Sanitation District meeting June 20,2017

Clerk Of The Board,

Please find attached my letter of protest in regards to Laguna Sanitation District plant upgrade/expansion.

Chuck Williams.

Letter of Protest, Laguna Sanitation, Rate Increase, 6/20/2017

Charles Williams,  
120 North Ave, Orcutt 93455. Mail PO Box 2225 Orcutt 93457. Parcel # 105-072-04 Tax increase for me:  
196%, not 87% as stated in the notice. My sewer rate is now more than half of my property tax.

I do not believe this 1.9% tax increase is justified. Therefore, needs to be not be placed on automatic implementation annually. This is compounding thievery by over taxing. This is actually a 3.9% increase compounded annually.

Why does the Laguna sanitation district have to replace a low maintenance treatment plant built in 1959 that originally processed 3.5 MGD? It is now processing slightly lower. Most likely due to improper maintenance. This plant is made of concrete and steel plus filter media. Steel can be successfully be rebuilt and or replaced. A new plastic media filter is now available, and can replace the old rock media, which by the way, can be tested to meet required spec's and reused many times over. New plastic filtering media can increase the slower filtering capacity by half or more. This type of plant upgrade can process an approximate total of 5.25 MGD. In addition, this plant uses three different chemicals to treat its waste water, and also has a plant that removes salt from the water. This extra cost for salt removal needs to be paid by the suppliers of the salt and passed to their customers. Not spread over to those who do not use water softeners. Further, we, a group of three tax payers, Mr. Wilder's family of approximately 5, including wife four younger teen children and three plant employees were told prior to the tour of the plant process By Marty Wilder plant manager/supervisor that Santa Maria had done an upgrade expansion a few years back using the same old technology. Note: Not mentioned: This upgrade expansion included only expanding the flow to a bigger line. No plant upgrade. The plant upgrade was done in 2009. All three tax payers followed closely behind Mr. Wilder during the tour while the rest lagged slightly behind engaged in their own conversation, Taking pictures of the personal guided tour, most likely for promotional use and justification? Mr. Wilder is a "very good speaker", and appears to be knowledgeable! We do not need a Rolls Royce, when a Chevrolet will work just fine for what we have.

I spent a good detailed amount of time with Shannon Sweeney manager of the Santa Maria Sewer plant. Shannon has helped three different sewer districts bring their plants into compliance successfully, and "would be delighted to help anyone who needs it". Laguna Plant supervisor /Manager is concerned about the outdated plant being built in 1959 and using old technology as reasons for it to be replaced because of age and inefficiency. Why is it Santa Maria has been using the same plant built in 1938 has no plans to demolish it even though it's a little slow, not real pretty but it works efficiently, and has and extremely low maintenance cost. Uses a biological process in the entire plant, and only one chemical HY Ferrous Chloride to remove H2S gas for APCD compliance. I spoke with Shannon about money on hand available to Laguna for acquiring future bonds & grants at lower interest rates. Shannon agreed this needs to be done. She did not disclose the amount of tax money available to her other than her amount is a very considerable fraction smaller than Laguna. Laguna amount being sixteen million dollars. Shannon credits proper maintenance, and correct flow rates being crucial for this type of plant to work. Also acknowledged from a different source the cost of a new plant would require a lot more expensive maintenance and require much more electricity.

Santa Maria Water rate effective next month will be \$33.08 per month. Will increase in July to \$34.73  
Santa Maria Trash \$39.81 per month  
Santa Maria Sewer Rate increase July, 2017, \$19.20 per month.  
Santa Maria TOTAL per Mo. \$92.09  
This totals \$1105.08 per year. This total is not on property tax, and does not increase the total by 2% compounding yearly with Proposition 13.

Orcutt: My Golden State Water bill is \$47.29 per month, mostly used on plants. Three people live on this property.  
Health & Sanitation \$26.03 per month  
Laguna Sanitation district total \$137.10 per month compounded 2% annually if automatic roll over is approved bringing this total to 3.9% annually  
Total per month \$210.00. This does not include any school bonds! Just utilities.

State Water cost and Trash, was used to Justify this huge increase.  
Santa Maria Population roughly 110,000 population.  
Orcutt approximately 30,000

This is a big difference. I don't mind paying my fare share, but not for future development. Alternatives need to be investigated.

Respectfully,  
Charles Williams