



Our Water Supply

Helping Redwood City to be a WaterWise Community

City Proposes Sewer Rate Increase

Additional Funds Needed for Replacement, Upgrade, Maintenance of Sewer System

Over the next ten years, the aging South Bay-side System Authority (SBSA) sewage treatment facility will require some major replacement and refurbishment projects for equipment, buildings, and facilities. In addition, the City must make much-needed improvements to its aging sewage collection system, cover cost increases in the system's ongoing operation and maintenance, and implement necessary programs in compliance with new regulatory requirements.

In order to fund the various replacements and upgrades at the SBSA plant and to pay for improvements, operation, and maintenance of the sewage collection system, the City Council of Redwood City is considering a sewer rate increase.

The information provided in this article is based on the staff's recommendation to Council, and represents the sewer rate increases that the Council is considering. ***As of press time a final decision has not been made.***



The SBSA provides sewage treatment for Redwood City, Belmont, San Carlos, parts of unincorporated San Mateo County, and members of the West Bay Sanitary District. The SBSA Commission (consisting of representatives from each of the member agencies) made the decision to proceed with the necessary improvements, as well as to replenish reserve funds which were depleted over the past two years to complete an emergency pipe repair project.

Every two months, residents and businesses in Redwood City pay a fee (their City utility bill) which pays for the City's use of the SBSA sewage treatment facility, and the operation and maintenance of the City's sewage collection system. The improvements, required in order to best serve the community with sewage collection and treatment service, would be funded by a proposed increase in that fee.

The rate increase is proposed to go into effect on August 25, 2006:

- ◆ Increase the minimum monthly **residential** Basic Service Charge from the current \$26.27 to \$33.00
- ◆ Increase the minimum monthly **commercial** Basic Service Charge (for all commercial user categories) from \$26.27 to \$33.00 (in addition to an increase in the "additional charges" for wastewater in excess of 1,000 cubic feet)

Please visit redwoodcity.org/water or call **780-7464** for up-to-date information.

Notification of the proposed rate increase was sent to all City property owners in early May, providing a 45-day period within which formal protests to the increase could be submitted.

The City Council has scheduled a public hearing on this proposed rate increase for June 26th, during which they'll take public comment, consider the number of protests filed, discuss the issue, and potentially make a final decision. The Council could choose to continue the public hearing to a subsequent Council meeting for consideration of this rate increase.

(continued on next page)

(Sewer Rate Increase ~ continued from page 1)

When you pay your sewer utility bill, that money goes into Redwood City's Sewer Enterprise Fund. As an "enterprise" fund, by law it must be self-sustaining — all expenditures must be directly related to the operation, maintenance, repair, and management of the City's sewer system, and other related uses as deemed appropriate by the City Council. Revenues to the Sewer Enterprise Fund are kept separate from other municipal funds and uses, and cannot be co-mingled with funds for any other activities.

The Sewer Enterprise Fund supports two major service components:

- The sewage treatment plant, as previously described, and
- The collection system, maintained and operated by the City of Redwood City, which is comprised of the sewer mains, collector mains, and trunk lines (large pipelines), the City's portion of the "lateral" lines (the pipeline from your house to the main sewer line), and the pump stations that carry customer wastewater to the sewage treatment plant

More information about Redwood City's sewer rates, the sewer and storm water system, and the SBSA treatment plant is available from Redwood City's Public Works Services staff at 650-780-7464, or by sending an email to mharang@redwoodcity.org.

Call Now to Save Water & Money with Redwood City's FREE Toilet Replacement Program!

Redwood City has already installed over 4,000 free high-efficiency toilets throughout the community— if yours is one of the many homes in Redwood City that still has an older water-wasting toilet, then **this program is for you!** Do you have an old toilet? Then a lot of our precious water (and your money) is going down the drain!



Redwood City's **Toilet Replacement Program** offers **free** high-efficiency models for single-family, multi-family, and commercial customers. These toilets are independently tested and rated according to their flushing performance, to guarantee a powerful flush. **They work great!** Choose between a high-efficiency gravity-type toilet or a high-tech pressure assist model that delivers an even more powerful flush.

Don't wait! We make it simple to get rid of your old water-waster, and enjoy a brand new efficient toilet for free. Here's how to get yours:

- 1) You must be a Redwood City water customer with an existing toilet that was built before 1992 and which uses 3.5 gallons or more per flush.
- 2) Call 780-7436 or go to redwoodcity.org/conservation to request an application and we'll mail it to you promptly—just fill out the application and send it back.
- 3) After your application is received and qualified, the City's contractor will call to make an appointment to install your new toilet.
- 4) A technician will come to your home, remove your old water-waster for recycling, and install your new high-efficiency toilet—all of the work and the new toilet are free!

That's it—you don't pay a dime, but you'll start saving water and money right away!

Both the gravity and pressure-assist models come in either round or elongated front. ADA models are available to meet the needs of disabled or elderly residents. You also get free water-efficient showerheads and faucet aerators to save *even more* water.

Call 780-7436 or go to redwoodcity.org/conservation today for your free toilet!

Your service club, neighborhood association, community organization, or other group can learn more about water conservation — Redwood City offers a **Water Conservation Speakers Bureau** that provides an informative and interesting presentation for your gathering. Call 780-7436 to schedule a speaker for your group.