



OUR WATER SUPPLY

Redwood City Water Rates Increase; Still Among Lowest on the Peninsula

Historically, Redwood City has enjoyed water bills significantly lower than the average for similar cities throughout the Peninsula. While that continues to be the case, the cost of Redwood City's water conservation and recycled water programs have led to the need for a water rate increase.

On June 6, 2005, the City Council approved moderate increases in our community's water rates in order to cover these expenses.



The City already uses millions of gallons more than our annual allotment of water. While today we can buy extra water from other cities, in the future that water is going to be more and more scarce and expensive as

other cities' water needs increase - not to mention the lack of water when the next drought hits.

To address that issue, Redwood City has embarked on an aggressive water conservation campaign and a program for providing recycled water for industrial and irrigation use. The rate increases are intended to pay for those efforts, which will result in bringing our community back into compliance with our annual water allotment, and assure our water supply and water quality for the future.

Conservation programs already in place include toilet replacement and rebates; clothes washer rebates; landscape irrigation efficiency; home water use efficiency and conservation



kits for residential customers; pre-rinse spray nozzle replacements for restaurants; water conservation education for students, and other programs.

Even with these necessary rate changes, Redwood City still provides water at rates that are among the lowest on the Peninsula.

Community input, ideas, and comments were collected through numerous public meetings of the Council's Utilities Committee, as well as a Community Roundtable on Water Rates workshop. The Council approved a hybrid approach to water rate increases, including a 3.8% increase in the residential Basic Service Charge. The other part of your water bill is the variable charge, based on usage.

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• Sewer Rates Also Increase •

The City Council approved a 9.8% increase (about \$2.35 per month) for residential sewer service customers in order to pay for increased costs from the South Bayside System Authority (SBSA—the entity responsible for sewage treatment). Commercial customers' rates were increased at a slightly higher level. The SBSA's cost increases are related to replacement of an 'outfall' pipe for sewage discharge.

Water Rates Among Lowest on Peninsula *(continued from page 1)*

The City measures water usage in terms of "units" (one unit = 748 gallons). The more water a customer uses, the higher the per-unit charge. A five-tiered residential rate system is in place to strongly encourage water conservation efforts in the home: *the less you use, the less you pay per unit*. The first 10 units you use are always charged at the lowest rate. For all water used above 10 units, you are charged the rate for the tier in which your total usage falls. Here is an overview of the rate increases, effective with the July 1st billing period (which may include charges for water used in May and June):

Up to 10 units: 4% increase *(from \$1.13 to \$1.18 per unit)*

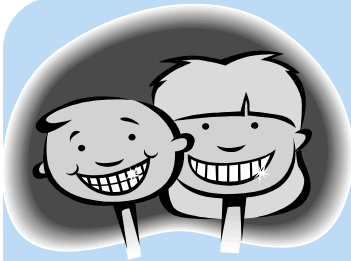
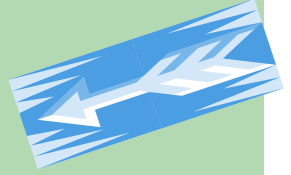
Up to 25 units: 8% increase *(from \$2.00 to \$2.16 per unit for all units beyond 10)*

Up to 50 units: 14% increase *(from \$2.40 to \$2.74 per unit for all units beyond 10)*

Up to 75 units: 26% increase *(from \$2.80 to \$3.53 per unit for all units beyond 10)*

Over 75 units: 33% increase *(from \$3.25 to \$4.32 per unit for all units beyond 10)*

Commercial water rates were increased by 8% (for usage of up to 15 units), 14% (up to 75 units), and 47% (over 75 units) - again, to provide the maximum incentive to conserve water.



Water Fluoridation Coming to Redwood City

California's fluoridated drinking water act, Assembly Bill 733, became law in 1995, requiring water systems with 10,000 or more service connections to fluoridate once funding is available. As a result, drinking water provided to the community of Redwood City by the **San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)** will be fluoridated beginning in September 2005.

Fluoridation is a safe, effective, and economical way to improve dental health for the entire community. Fluoride, one of the most plentiful elements on earth, occurs naturally in water supplies. When fluoride is present in drinking water at optimal levels, it has been shown to promote oral health by preventing tooth decay. Water fluoridation is the addition of small amounts of fluoride to a water supply to achieve a fluoride level that helps prevent tooth decay. Extensive research conducted over the past 50 years has shown that fluoridation of public water supplies is a safe and effective way to reduce tooth decay.

Replace Your Old Water-Wasting Toilet...

...with a **new high-efficiency** model for **FREE**, or get a great *rebate* when you buy the toilet of your choice from a list of qualified high-efficiency toilets!

Redwood City's **Toilet Replacement Program** is underway — call 780-7436 or visit our website at www.redwoodcity.org/conservation for all the details. Get your new FREE toilet or rebate, and save!

The overall value and safety of community water fluoridation is endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and by the U.S. Surgeon General. Community water fluoridation is endorsed by numerous public health and professional organizations, including the American Medical Association, the American Association of Public Health, U.S. Public Health Service, World Health Organization, and the American Dental Association.

*For more information on water fluoridation call the **Redwood City Public Works Department at 780-7464**. For health-related information, contact the **San Mateo County Health Department at 372-8572**. For general information and background on water fluoridation visit the **SFPUC online at www.sfwater.org/fluoride**, or call **866-668-6008**.*

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.