

NEWS FROM THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO WATER DEPARTMENT

Water and Sewer Rate Hearings set for Council on June 8, 2004

The San Diego City Council will consider revisions to the methodology used by the City to calculate water and sewer service charges, and capacity charges, at a public meeting on Tuesday, June 8, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. in the City Council Chambers. The Council Chambers are located at 202 C Street, on the 12th floor.

Members of the public will be able to speak before the Council at the June 8 meeting.

The proposed revisions would not change the total amount of money collected by the City for water and sewer services but would increase or decrease the charges to different types of customers. These proposed changes would enhance rate payer equity and bring the City into full compliance with the rate setting requirements of the State Water Resources Control Board.

When adopted, the revisions would become effective Oct. 1, 2004. In addition, the Council will consider and reaffirm water rate increases previously adopted at its April 30, 2002, meeting.

Revenues derived from Sewer Service Charges are used solely for the purpose of defraying costs incurred by the sewer system, which include: sewage transportation; treatment and disposal; facilities equipment and maintenance; capital projects and related financing.

Revenues derived from Water Services Charges are used solely for the purpose of defraying costs incurred by the water system, which include: raw and treated water purchases; treatment and distribution; facility and equipment maintenance; capital projects and financing; metering; billing; and account management.

If the revisions are approved, all single-family domestic customers will see a decrease in their sewer bills. As for the water bill, based on a comparison with water rates that would otherwise be in effect, single-family domestic customers using 11 HCF or less will see a reduction in their water bills. Those using more than 12 HCF or more a month will see an increase.

Your input as a rate payer is critical to the rate revision process. Make your comments to the Mayor and City Council either by attending the June 8 meeting or by making your opinions known by letter to the Mayor or your council representative at CAB, 202 C Street, San Diego, CA, 92102. You can also send an E-mail, and E-mail addresses can be found on the City's website at: www.sandiego.gov

New safety equipment will help staff save lives

Nearly two million San Diegans and visitors to our city take advantage of the Water Department's Lakes Recreation Program every year. They visit the reservoirs to fish, water-ski, boat, jog and hike.

It's all physical activity and, therefore, potentially dangerous. Patrolling the reservoirs to ensure everybody has a safe and fun experience are the members of the Water Department's Ranger-Diver Team. The team is now, more than ever, prepared to deal with any emergency.

AEDs continued on back



Ranger-Divers Timothy Douglass and Crystal Burlington display some emergency safety equipment, including the new Automated External Defibrillator.

Sewer rates increase helping reduce spills

Effective March 1, 2004, sewer rates increased 7.5 percent. This increase was part of the rate package approved on October 16, 2001. The revenue generated by the increases is being used to upgrade the City's aging sewer system, including its wastewater treatment plants, pump stations and sewer pipelines. These upgrades will allow the City to continue to meet state and federal clean water standards.

As a result of the previous increases, there has been a 60 percent reduction

in sewer spills when you compare the number of spills in 2000 to the number in 2003. Also, there has been a 52 percent reduction in spills to public waters over the same period.

The increased revenue allowed for the cleaning of the entire 3,000 miles of City sewer lines, as well as the televised inspection of 1,200 miles of aging sewer lines and the subsequent repair, rehabilitation or replacement of portions of the sewer

system. This has been a significant factor in the reduced number of sewer spills and fewer beach closures.

As part of the approved rate package, the next increase of 7.5 percent will take effect on March 1, 2005.

The average monthly single-family residential sewer bill will be approximately \$37.03 as of March 1, 2004. For more information you can contact the Wastewater Info Line at 858-292-6484.

Let I-Pay help make bill-paying simple, easy

There are two ways to reduce your water bill each month. The first is obvious: use less water. What's the other way? Sign up for I-Pay, the Water Department's on-line bill payment service.

By paying your monthly bill electronically, you'll no longer have to buy stamps or write checks. The other great thing about I-Pay is it's so simple. Just go to the Water Department's web site at www.sandiego.gov/water and click on the I-Pay logo. You will be taken



directly to the enrollment page. If you'd like to test drive the system before signing up, just click on the "demo" link and you'll be able to learn firsthand just how fast and easy I-Pay is.

The only information you'll need to get the process rolling is your Water Department account number and your checking

or savings bank account number. (Some credit unions use different account numbers for electronic payments. If using a credit union account, please verify you have the correct account number for electronic bill payments).

Once enrolled, you'll be able to view and pay your bills securely from your e-mail in-box. Just click and pay, it's that easy.

AEDs

"We respond to hundreds of emergencies every year and many of these emergencies are life threatening," said Ranger-Diver Kevin Kidd-Tackaberry. "With so many people at our reservoirs we began to look into acquiring Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). These are proven to help save somebody who goes into cardiac arrest. Hopefully we'll never have to use them, but now if one is needed we'll have them nearby and we'll have a much better chance of saving somebody's life."

The Water Department has purchased four AEDs for its reservoirs, and another one was donated by Kaiser Permanente in conjunction with San Diego Project Heart Beat.


"My training is as a paramedic and the one thing you learn is the importance of time when somebody has a heart attack," said Ranger-Diver Patrick Walter. "With every minute that passes the chances of the person in cardiac arrest to make a full recovery diminishes greatly. By having the AEDs on station, we reduce the time it takes

to get the cardiac and circulatory system back functioning properly and effectively. By diminishing the cardiac down-time the chances of a positive medical outcome is much better."


In the future the Water Department will continue to work on grant funding to help acquire more AED units. The plan is

that in the future the AEDs will be on site at all City reservoirs.

For more information about the wide variety of program provided by the Lakes Recreation Program, and a list of the City reservoirs and their locations, please visit the website at: www.sandiego.gov/water/recreation.



Important Water Department numbers



To report a water line break or a sewer overflow.....	515-3525
To ask a question about your water or sewer bill.....	515-3500
To find out where you can pay your bill.....	515-3500
For Water Conservation Program information.....	515-3500
To establish or cancel water or sewer services.....	515-3500
To ask about San Diego's drinking water.....	668-3232
For Lakes Recreation Program information.....	465-3474
To schedule a presentation through the Speaker's Bureau.....	533-6638
To ask the location of a City water or sewer line.....	527-7482
Capital Improvements Projects Hotline.....	533-4679
San Diego City Lakes Hotline.....	465-3474
To report water theft from the Water Department	533-4146

(All phone numbers are 619 area code)