

Water Rate Adjustment

5-11-2022

To the City of Camarillo,

My name is Jeff Nettleton and I reside at 447 Gardenia Avenue in the unincorporated area of Camarillo. This unincorporate area consists of approximately 114 single family houses. All of these houses are outside of the city boundaries. The houses are located on the following roads.

Gardenia Avenue, Lantana Street, Azalea Court, Tamarix Street, Plumbago Street, Cordova Court, and Melia Court.

These residences on the above listed roads are on the same water main supply line and sewer line as the residences on Glenbrook Avenue – the Glenbrook residences are all within the City of Camarillo limits.

I have summarized the current water / sewer rates and the proposed water / sewer rates for both the unincorporated residences, see above, and the within city limits houses. See below for details.

Current sewer rate: Unincorp. pay **\$71.78** per month / city residents pay **\$56.95**

Unincorp. pay \$14.83 more for the same service!

Current water tier rate:

Unincorp. Tier 1 - **\$4.44** per HCF / City residents Tier 1 - **\$1.61** per HCF

Unincorp. pay \$2.83 per HCF more for the same water on Tier 1!

Unincorp. Tier 2 - **\$4.64** per HCF / City residents Tier 2 - **\$3.81** per HCF

Unincorp. Pay \$0.83 per HCF more for the same water on Tier 2!

These rate discrepancies are very unfair and there is no reason why unincorporated residents utilizing the same water and sewer lines as their next door within city limits residents pay.

Proposed sewer rate increase:

Unincorp. **\$74.66** / city residents pay **\$59.23**

Unincorp. will pay \$15.43 more for the same service!

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City of Camarillo
City Clerk

Proposed water tier rate:

Unincorp. Tier 1 - **\$3.69** per HCF / City residents Tier 1 - **\$2.23** per HCF

Unincorp. will pay \$1.46 per HCF more for the same water on Tier 1!

Unincorp. Tier 2 - **\$6.07** per HCF / City residents Tier 2 - **\$3.31** per HCF

Unincorp. will pay \$2.76 per HCF more for the same water on Tier 2!

Unincorp. Tier 3 - **\$7.07** per HCF / City residents Tier 3 - **\$4.48** per HCF

Unincorp. will pay \$2.59 per HCF more for the same water on Tier 3!

HCF = 748 gallons of water

In conclusion, the above listed streets have been over charged for water and sewer services simply because we reside outside of the city limits. Unlike a cable provider, Internet provider, phone service, etc., we do not have the option to obtain water or sewer services elsewhere as there are no other options for us. In a time when inflation is out of control (gasoline prices, food prices, product prices across the board, etc.), now is not a good time to unfairly raise water and sewer rates as substantially as proposed. My family is struggling financially and these increases will negatively impact us.

I am asking that in all fairness that our water and sewer rates in the unincorporated area (small island surrounded by the city) be billed at the same rates as the city residents. OR if anything please don't raise our current water and sewer rates to the proposed levels.

Thank you for your time in this matter,



Jeff Nettleton (owner of the property)

[REDACTED]

Camarillo, CA 93010

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Attn: Camarillo City Council:

Water Rate Adjustment Protest

Southern California is experiencing one of the worst droughts in history and cities, including Camarillo, are being asked to take drastic methods to reduce water consumption. Recent events have shown that voluntary water reduction methods do not work, and therefore it is up to government to impose more stringent regulations to ensure people have enough water for basic needs: cooking, bathing, toilets, etc.

The City of Camarillo presently has a current water rate schedule that effectively gives local government the ability to financially reward households that cut back on water use, Tier 1, and financially punish households that use excessive water, mainly for lawn watering, Tier 3 and Tier 4. But the proposed City of Camarillo water rate changes will do exactly the opposite. They will force Tier 1 water users, people who conserve water, to pay more each month. And the proposed changes will give financial breaks to people who waste water by excessive lawn irrigation, currently classified as Tier 3 and Tier 4.

The water rate increases in Tier 1 vary depending on the water meter service charge and how much water is used each month. If you do the math and run monthly bills for households in the HCF 3 category to the HCF 9 category, every one of these conservation-minded households will pay more each month. The monthly increase varies from a low of 7 cents (a house with a 5/8-3/4 inch meter size that falls in the HCF 3 category) to \$6.59 per month (a house with a 1 inch meter size in the HCF 9 category.) I am excluding HCF 0, HCF 1 and HCF 2 since these are basically vacation bills.

Yet the proposed water rate changes can result in huge financial savings for the excessive water user, the homeowner who values a green lawn and waters 7 days a week. The city proposes to do away with Tier 4, that is someone who uses 25 HCF or more each month. If this house has a 1-inch meter size, which is probable, under the current rate structure, the 25 HCF bill would be \$196.69 per month. But under the city's proposed new water rates, this excessive water user would have a monthly bill of \$140.44, a nice savings of \$56.25 for someone who doesn't believe in water conservation.

And because the city is proposing to cut Tier 2 rates from \$3.81 to \$3.31 and Tier 3 rates from \$4.83 to \$4.48, households that use more water than Tier 1 users and households that use excessive water will all see their monthly water bills be reduced. The reduction is generally \$5.00 to \$6.00 monthly.

In a nutshell, what the city is proposing is to financially penalize those households who believe in conservation and are willing to cutback on water use, and give a break to excessive water users by reducing their monthly water bill.

Signed: Walter Stegmeir

Walter Stegmeir - Property Owner
[REDACTED], Camarillo, CA 93010-3843

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MAY 11 2022

City of Camarillo
City Clerk

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrea S <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 12:08 PM

To: City Clerk Internet EMAIL Group <cityclerk@cityofcamarillo.org>

Subject: Proposed water rates

Hello, I received the notification about the proposed increase in water rates. I was stunned to see that the price per HCF for tier 1 is increasing and tiers 2 and 3 are decreasing.

Seems to me it is a penalty for people who are conscientious with water usage. Also a penalty for seniors who generally have smaller household. How does this rate structure encourage people to save water?

Thank you in advance for your comments.

Andrea Soriano (owner)

[REDACTED]

Camarillo CA 93010

805-[REDACTED]