

# CITY OF ST. HELENA

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ST. HELENA CITY COUNCIL** will hold a Public Hearing in the Council Chambers located at Vintage Hall; 475 Main Street, St. Helena, CA, on **April 26, 2011 at 6:00 P.M.**, to receive comments on **proposals to adopt increases in water and wastewater rates** for customers provided these services by the City of St. Helena. The City Council will consider adopting an Ordinance, which sets forth the proposed water and wastewater rates.

The ordinance increasing rates is proposed because the City's water and wastewater enterprise operations are required to cover basic operation and maintenance costs, existing debt covenant requirements, capital improvement projects, and adequate reserves for operation of the City's water and wastewater systems. The proposed increases to water and wastewater rates are based upon recent analysis regarding these services. In addition to increasing water and wastewater rates, the City will move to a monthly billing cycle instead of the current bi-monthly schedule.

Water rates are proposed to increase an overall 58% in July 2011, except for Meadowood surcharges, which are proposed to increase by 1%. In addition the City is proposing rate increases indexed by the Consumer Price Index (as calculated by the United States Department of Labor for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose area (Series CUURA422SAO) for the time period from August to August each year or increases to the rate charged by the City of Napa for purchased Water, whichever is higher. Annual adjustments would occur each January from 2013 through 2016, provided, however, in no event shall such rates increase by more than the cost of providing water service. The proposed water rates for July 2011 also include changes to the rate structure, as noted in the rate table (below). Three-tier structures for residential and non-residential customers would be reduced to two-tiers, with an increased allotment of water in the first tier.

Wastewater rates are proposed to increase an overall 26% in July 2011. In addition the City is proposing rate increases indexed by the Consumer Price Index as calculated by the United States Department of Labor for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose area (Series CUURA422SAO) for the time period from August to August each year commencing each January from 2013 through 2016, provided, however, in no event shall such rates increase by more than the cost of providing water or wastewater service. The proposed wastewater rates for July 2011 include changes to the rate structure for single family residential customers, as noted in the rate table (below). Single family residential wastewater bills would be based on each customer's average monthly winter water usage, determined as the average usage during the period from January through March each year.

A report providing additional information on the financial obligations of the utilities and reasons for the rate increases is available for review at City Hall and on the City's website.

These increased rates shall become effective July, 2011 and will be used to provide revenues for the purposes described above. The increases will be reflected on all water meter readings taken after July, 2011 and will be reflected on the July 2011 utility bills.

**ALL INTERESTED PARTIES** are invited to attend the **Hearing** and express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposals outlined above. While this constitutes a new public hearing on utility rates, customers that submitted valid protest letters for the December 2010 hearing need not submit them again. The City will count all valid protest letters previously submitted for the December 2010 hearing.

Under Proposition 218, if you are the owner of record (or a tenant who is obligated to pay City water and wastewater service to the property) of a parcel or parcels subject to proposed water and/or wastewater rate changes you may submit a protest against the proposed rate changes by filing a **written, signed** protest with the City Clerk at or before the time set for the public hearing. Only one protest will be counted per identified parcel. Protests submitted by e-mail, facsimile, or other electronic means will not be accepted.

A written protest must contain a description of the parcel or parcels in which the party signing the protest has an interest, sufficient to identify the parcel(s). If the party signing the protest is not shown on the last equalized assessment roll of Napa County as the owner of the parcel(s), the protest must contain, or be accompanied by, written evidence that the party filing the protest is the owner of the parcel(s). Protests regarding the proposed rate changes may be mailed to: **City of St. Helena, City Clerk, and 1480 Main Street, St. Helena, California 94574**. Protests may also be personally delivered to the City Clerk or presented at the time of the public hearing.

The proposed increases in water and wastewater rates are shown in the following tables. If you have further questions about the amount proposed to be charged for service to your parcel, please call City Hall at 967-2792.

**City of St. Helena  
Current and Proposed Water Rates**

	Current		July 2011	
	Inside City	Outside City	Inside City	Outside City
<b>Monthly Fixed Service Charges</b>				
5/8" meter	\$ 15.70	\$ 24.34	\$ 24.81	\$ 38.46
1" meter	\$ 36.40	\$ 56.42	\$ 57.51	\$ 89.14
1 1/2" meter	\$ 70.82	\$ 109.77	\$ 111.89	\$ 173.43
2" meter	\$ 112.13	\$ 173.80	\$ 177.16	\$ 274.60
3" meter	\$ 208.56	\$ 323.26	\$ 329.52	\$ 510.76
4" meter	\$ 346.37	\$ 536.87	\$ 547.26	\$ 848.25
6" meter	\$ 690.53	\$ 1,070.32	\$ 1,091.03	\$ 1,691.10
8" meter	\$ 1,104.40	\$ 1,711.82	\$ 1,744.95	\$ 2,704.67
<b>Residential Water Usage Rates (\$/HCF) (1) (2)</b>				
Tier 1	\$ 1.75	\$ 2.10	\$ 4.05	\$ 4.86
Tier 2	\$ 3.50	\$ 4.20	\$ 6.07	\$ 7.29
Tier 3	\$ 6.26	\$ 7.51		
<b>Non-Residential Water Usage Rates (\$/HCF) (3) (4)</b>				
Tier 1	\$ 2.88	\$ 3.46	\$ 4.05	\$ 4.86
Tier 2	\$ 3.18	\$ 3.82	\$ 6.07	\$ 7.29
Tier 3	\$ 3.49	\$ 4.19		
<b>Landscape Irrigation Rate (\$/HCF) (5)</b>				
All Usage	\$ 3.08	\$ 3.08	\$ 4.71	\$ 4.71



**City of St. Helena  
Current and Proposed Wastewater Rates**

	Current	July 2011
<b>Single Family Residential</b>		
Monthly Service Charge	\$ 48.12	\$ 42.68
Usage Rate (\$/HCF of winter water use) (1)	\$	\$ 3.55
<b>Multi-Family and Non-Residential</b>		
<i>Monthly Service Charge</i>		
5/8" meter	\$ 30.14	\$ 37.97
1" meter	\$ 73.28	\$ 92.33
1 1/2" meter	\$ 145.20	\$ 182.95
2" meter	\$ 231.49	\$ 291.67
3" meter	\$ 432.84	\$ 545.38
4" meter	\$ 720.49	\$ 907.82
6" meter	\$ 1,439.62	\$ 1,813.91
<i>Usage Rate (\$/HCF of water usage)</i>		
Multi-Family Residential	\$ 2.82	\$ 3.55
Car Wash	\$ 2.04	\$ 2.57
Schools	\$ 2.27	\$ 2.86
Laundry/Laundromat	\$ 2.40	\$ 3.02
Churches	\$ 2.61	\$ 3.29
City Buildings	\$ 2.61	\$ 3.29
Commercial - General	\$ 2.61	\$ 3.29
Winery - Sutter Home	\$ 3.05	\$ 3.84
Motels w/o Food	\$ 3.11	\$ 3.92
Service Sta./Auto Repair	\$ 3.36	\$ 4.23
Mixed Retail w/ Food	\$ 4.86	\$ 6.12
Motels w/ Food	\$ 6.26	\$ 7.89
Restaurant	\$ 8.36	\$ 10.53
Grocery	\$ 8.49	\$ 10.70
Mortuary	\$ 8.49	\$ 10.70
Winery - Merryvale	\$ 14.98	\$ 18.87
Winery - Spottswoode	\$ 14.98	\$ 18.87

Notes for Wastewater Rates:

- Single family usage charge based on average winter water use, determined as average monthly usage for billing cycles with read dates from January through March. Months with zero usage are to be excluded from the averaging. Usage charge to be adjusted annually in April based on the newest winter average.

**City of St. Helena  
Current and Proposed Wastewater Special User Rate Factors**

	Current	July 2011
<b>Special Users (factors for formula in Muni. Code Sec. 13.20.020 (D))</b>		
A (per million gallons of flow)	\$ 1,672.39	\$ 2,107.21
B (per pound of BOD)	\$ 0.81	\$ 1.02
C (per pound of SS)	\$ 0.93	\$ 1.17

The following Chart shows a few different scenarios of what an average bill would look like with the new rate increases. Please note that this is only a sample and your bill will depend on the size of your meter and the amount of water you use.

<b>Sample Monthly Bill Amounts for Water and Sewer Customers</b>			
		Current	Jul-11
<b>Single Family Residential (5/8" meter)</b>			
<b>Inside City</b>			
Low User (Assumes 3 HCF Average for Sewer)	8 HCF	\$ 77.82	\$ 110.54
Average User (Assumes 5 HCF Average for Sewer)	16 HCF	\$ 102.32	\$ 154.08
High User (Assumes 7 HCF Average for Sewer)	30 HCF	\$ 151.32	\$ 246.16
Very High User (Assumes 10 HCF Average for Sewer)	50 HCF	\$ 248.92	\$ 375.21
<b>Single Family Residential (5/8" meter)</b>			
<b>Outside City*</b>			
<i>*Outside City do not have Sewer Services</i>			
Low User	8 HCF	\$ 41.14	\$ 77.34
Average User	16 HCF	\$ 70.54	\$ 121.08
High User	30 HCF	\$ 129.34	\$ 192.28
Very High User	50 HCF	\$ 246.44	\$ 368.94
<b>Multi-family Residential</b>			
Average User 1 1/2" meter	148 HCF	\$ 983.38	\$ 1,476.20
<b>Non Residential</b>			
Restaurant 1" meter	97 HCF	\$ 1,235.13	\$ 1,638.84