

PRESS RELEASE

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Draft Utility Rate Study Available for Review

Benicia, CA (July 21, 2021) — Last year, the City of Benicia began working with Bartle Wells Associates, independent public finance advisors, to develop a draft water and wastewater utility rate study. The draft rate study is now available for public review and comment on the City's website at <https://www.ci.benicia.ca.us/watersewerrates>.

A public meeting, with City Council Members in attendance, will be held on Tuesday, July 27, 2021 to explain the draft rate study and receive public comments.

The last water and wastewater rate study was completed in 2016 and covered a planning period through 2021. A rate study is a planning document that examines a utility's reasonably foreseeable revenues and expenses to ensure long-term financial and operational stability. The goals of the current draft rate study are to

- ensure fund solvency and transparency;
- fully fund ongoing operations and maintenance;
- deliver a prioritized Capital Improvement Program;
- develop easy to understand customer categories and charges;
- develop proportionate and reasonable service charges based on the City's actual costs of service; and
- ensure affordability of service.

The draft rate study was developed using data-based decision making. "It is important for us to rely on independently validated data when making future projections," stated Kyle Ochenduszko, Deputy Public Works Director.

This draft rate study builds on the City's 2020 Water and Wastewater Condition Assessments, previous years' Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports, adopted budgets, and actual historical customer data. This solid set of data enables the City to accurately project the next five years of revenues and expenditures – detailed in the draft rate study.

On July 27, 2021, Benicia City Council will hold a public study session to review the draft rate study, solicit public input, and provide direction to staff. More information about this public meeting will be available on the City's website at <https://www.ci.benicia.ca.us/agendas> when the meeting agenda is issued on Wednesday, July 21, 2021.

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