

Notice of a public hearing

Dear Benicia Resident and/or Business Owner,

You are receiving a revised Notice of a Public Hearing to increase the water and sewer rates and add water meter replacement fees. The revised notice explains that, if adopted, the proposed water and sewer rates and fee increase will be phased in over the next five (5) years, beginning on utility bills September 1, 2016 and then each July 1st thereafter.

On or around April 11, 2016, you should have received the original Notice regarding the proposed rate increase. After receiving feedback that the notice was confusing to customers, particularly in regards to how to calculate one's expected increase, the City Council directed staff to stop the prior noticing process and return with a new and improved notice. Some of the improvements to the new notice include more details on the financial position of each utility, additional information on the proposed meter replacement fee. The revised notice also provides the rate and fee tables as bimonthly, instead of monthly, since the City bills every other month.

The City Council received the improved notice on June 7, 2016 and directed staff to send the attached notice to Benicia property owners and utility customers. The public hearing date is set for August 16, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. If approved, adoption of the new water and sewer utility rates would go into effect on September 1, 2016.

While every effort has been made to make the revised notice more informative and user friendly, including step-by-step instructions for estimating your new bill, staff recognizes that you may still have questions regarding the rates. In an effort to make sure that you understand the proposed rates, City staff is providing the following options for customers:

- **Visit us during Drop in Hours at City Hall** (Mondays from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. or Fridays from 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.): You may stop in and ask City staff to estimate your new bill, as well as ask any questions you may have.
- **Visit us at Farmers Market:** City staff will be present at the City booth on Thursday evenings on First Street to answer questions.
- **Use the Online Bill Calculator:** Visit www.ci.benicia.ca.us and click on 2016 Proposed Water & Sewer Rates to access an online bill calculator that allows you to enter your residential water usage information and receive an estimate of your new bill amount.
- **Call the City's Finance Department:** Call (707) 746-4225 anytime between 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. weekdays to receive assistance in estimating your new bill amount.

Finally, if you already submitted a protest under the prior 45-day noticing period, you do not need to resubmit. Those protests that provided the required information that have already been received will still be counted. However, after receiving the new notice, if you have reconsidered and wish to retract your protest, you may do so by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (707) 746-4200.

Thank you for taking a moment to review the attached notice, and please contact the City with any questions.

Sincerely,

Anne Cardwell

Anne Cardwell
Acting City Manager



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED INCREASES IN WATER AND SEWER RATES AND ADDING A WATER METER REPLACEMENT FEE

City of Benicia

June 2016

You are receiving this Notice because the City Council of the City of Benicia is considering increases in water and sewer rates for all categories of users, effective **September 1, 2016, with annual increases each July 1 thereafter through fiscal year 2020-2021.**

Reasons for the Rate Increase:

The City of Benicia is recommending water and sewer rate increases and adding a water meter replacement fee to ensure the health and safety of the community and to ensure Benicia's water and sewer utilities remain financially solvent.

Our water and sewer system infrastructure is old, and includes aging pipes, inaccurate water meters, and deteriorating assets such as important monitoring equipment, pumps, and other treatment plant infrastructure that cannot be easily repaired due to its age. Upgrades must be done in order to:

- Ensure clean and safe drinking water for our community.
- Provide a secure, adequate water supply in the event of an earthquake, fire, or catastrophic emergency.
- Prevent sewage spills that threaten public health and place the City at risk of polluting the Carquinez Strait.
- Read water meters more accurately and effectively.

Although Benicia residents and businesses have done a great job conserving water in response to the drought, the result is less revenue coming in to cover the costs of the treatment plants and pipes.

These costs continue to rise regardless of the volume of water that Benicians are using, and comprise approximately 80-85% of the total costs of these utilities. Rising waste disposal costs and evolving state/federal regulations are also a factor. Benicia must stay in compliance with legal requirements or face costly fines or environmental lawsuits.

The proposed rate increases will help the City continue to provide clean, reliable and safe water and sewer services.

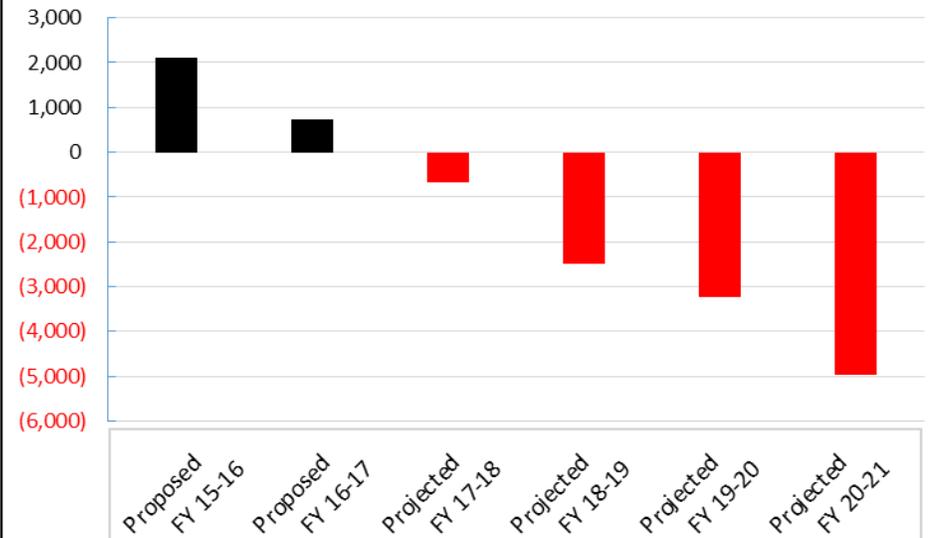
This **Notice**, per California state law (Proposition 218), provides information about the proposed increases in water and sewer rates.

It is also notification of a public hearing to be held on **August 16th at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall at 250 East L Street**, at which Public comments will be considered and the proposed increases voted on by the City Council.



Water Ending Cash Balance

(in thousands)



Water Fund Reserve Levels without Rate Increase

Achieving Fiscal Sustainability for Benicia's Utilities

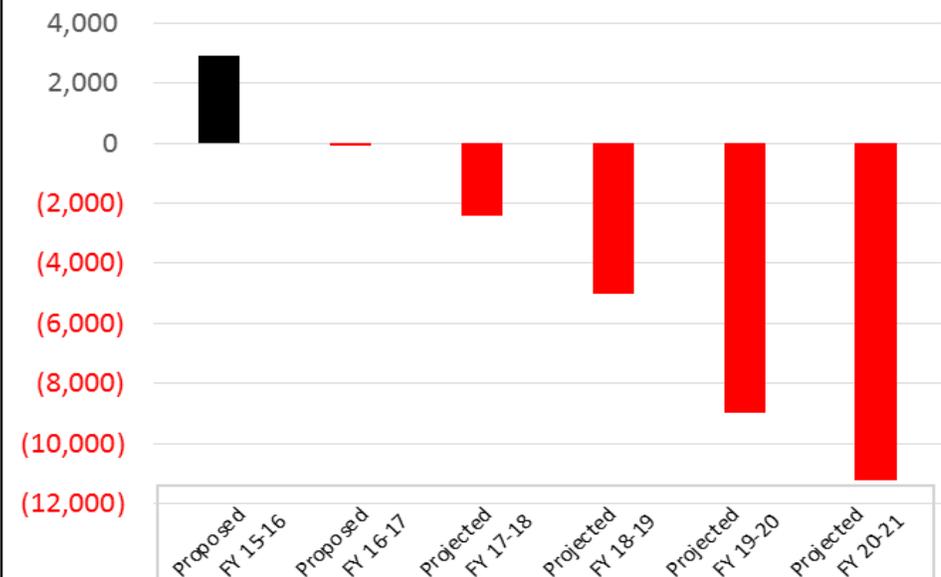
In August 2015, the City Council was provided with a ten year forecast of revenues and expenditures for each utility (water and sewer).

The forecast identified the need to more adequately fund preventative maintenance and capital improvement projects. Revenue levels under the current rates are not sufficient to address these costs.

When the necessary preventative maintenance and capital costs are incorporated into the forecast, cash reserves will be **negative** by fiscal year 2017-18 under the current rate structure (see charts).

Sewer Ending Cash Balance

(in thousands)



Sewer (Wastewater) Fund Reserve Levels without Rate Increase

How is the City Already Managing Costs?

Restructured employee benefits and retirement in 2010-11 to achieve savings for the City.

Delayed replacing needed pipeline and equipment to balance the budget.

Delayed the filling of certain vacated staff positions when possible to achieve cost savings.

Implemented a new leak detection program that resulted in the repair of over 115 leaks in 2015.

Actively pursuing grants for eligible water and sewer projects.

Reasons for Rising Water & Sewer Costs:

- Capital & Equipment Needs
- Preventative Maintenance
- Debt Service Requirements
- Adequate Budget Reserves
- Water Purchases



Basis of the Proposed Rates:

- The City's water and sewer utilities rely almost entirely on revenues from the rates to provide these services.
- The proposed rates are designed to fairly and equitably recover only the cost of providing water and sewer services to all customers.
- Consistent with the City's goal of promoting water conservation, the new water rate design is structured so that 70% is based on volumetric, or actual consumption of water, and the remaining 30% is a fixed charge.
- This new rate design encourages water conservation, because reducing your water consumption will have a more notable reduction on your bill than is the case when a higher percentage of the charges are fixed.

Water Meter Replacement Fee:

The water and sewer rate proposal includes the addition of a flat fee to utility bills for the water meter replacement project. The majority of the City's water meters are over 20 years old. As meters age, they begin to under-record consumption, resulting in lost revenue.

The City intends to finance the majority of the cost of the project, which is approximately \$8 million. To repay the loan, a flat dollar amount of either \$12 or \$14 will be charged to the bimonthly utility bill, depending on the size of meter. See below for a summary of project costs and fees.

City Cost Calculation*

\$ 8,000,000 Estimated Project Cost

\$ 1,580,090 Estimated Interest Expense

\$9,580,090 Total Principal and Interest

\$684,292 Annual loan payments (\$9,580,090 / 14 year loan)

User Cost Calculation

\$ 72.95 Annual cost per user (\$684,292 / 9,380 total meters)

\$ 12.16 Bimonthly charge (\$72.95 / 6 bimonthly bills per year)

*Actual calculations and financing options are pending approval and may change, but the meter charge will not exceed the per meter fees noted below.

Per Meter Fee

\$ 12.00 per bimonthly bill for meters 5/8" or 3/4" (typical residence)

\$ 14.00 per bimonthly bill for meters larger than 5/8" or 3/4"

Customer's fees are based upon the estimated average cost of the meter replacement project and are subject to actual funding. Because of Proposition 218 requirements, the fees will not exceed these amounts (i.e., \$12 or \$14 depending on meter size).

The new meters will use Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) technology that will allow for remote meter reading. This technology will result in more accurate meter reads and more efficient use of City staff time and resources, as well as enhanced customer accessibility to water usage data.

Water & Sewer Acronyms Defined:

EDU: Equivalent Dwelling
Unit

hcf: Hundred Cubic Feet =
748 gallons = 1 unit

SFR: Single Family
Residential

AMI: Advanced
Metering Infrastructure
Infrastructure



Elimination of the Drought Surcharge:

When estimating your new bill it is important to note that the drought surcharge that you are currently being charged will no longer be included on your bill once the new rates are in effect.

The new rates have a drought “rate stabilization” component built into the rate structure in order to help maintain financial stability if there is an even greater overall State mandated conservation requirement of the City’s customers than in recent years. See pages 8-9 for the proposed rate stabilization rates. The City is currently in Stage 3 Conservation Scenario.

As a result of the removal of the drought surcharge and depending on your water usage, you may actually notice a slight reduction in your water charges during the first year of new rates, as compared with your current bill.

For step by step instructions for how to estimate your single family residential water/sewer bill, please see the following page.

Commercial customers are encouraged to contact City Hall at (707) 746-4225 for assistance in calculating your bill.



Estimating Your Single Family Residential (SFR) Water Charge:

For commercial customers, since there are a number of variables to consider, we encourage you to call or visit the drop in hours for assistance in estimating your new bill amount (see page 10).

Follow these steps to calculate your estimated bimonthly water charge using the new rates for any of the next five fiscal years.

Step 1: Determine your Fixed Service Charge (Water Maintenance):

Use the chart on page 6 to find your Single Family Residence (SFR) fixed service charge. For example, the new bimonthly rate for fiscal year 2016/17 is \$26.00.

Step 2: Calculate your Volumetric Charge (Water Consumption):

The volumetric charge noted in the chart is calculated by multiplying the number of units (or hcf) consumed by the rate. For example, if you consumed 15 units in a bimonthly period, your volumetric charge would be $\$3.56 \text{ per unit} \times 15 \text{ units} = \53.40 , using the new rate for fiscal year 2016/17.

Step 3: Calculate the Total Water Charge:

Add the fixed and volumetric charges together. In the example above, $\$26.00 + \$53.40 = \$79.40$.

Estimating Your Single Family Residential Sewer Charge:

Follow these steps to calculate your estimated bimonthly sewer charge using the new rates for any of the next five fiscal years.

Step 1: Determine your Fixed Service Charge (Sewer Maintenance):

Use the chart on page 7 to find your Single Family Residence (SFR) fixed service charge. For example, the new bimonthly rate for fiscal year 2016/17 is \$86.91.

Step 2: Calculate your Volumetric Charge:

The volumetric charge noted in the chart is calculated by multiplying the number of units used by the rate per unit. For example, if you used 15 units in a bimonthly period, your volumetric charge would be $\$2.54 \text{ per unit} \times 15 \text{ units} = \38.10 using the new rate for fiscal year 2016/17. Note that the bimonthly number of units is capped at 18 for sewer, so if you used 20 units, it would be $\$2.54 \times 18 \text{ units}$.

Step 3: Calculate the Total Sewer Charge:

Add the fixed and volumetric charges together. In the example above, $\$86.91 + \$38.10 = \$125.01$.

Estimating Your TOTAL Single Family Residential Bill:

Step 1: Add your total water charge to your total sewer charge. In the example above, $\$79.40 + \$125.01 = \$204.41$.

Step 2: Add in Water Meter Replacement Charge of either \$12 or \$14. If you are not sure of your meter size, please contact the City. For purposes of this example, we will add $\$12 + \$204.41 = \$216.41$.

If you have questions and/or you are not a single family residential customer, please feel free to contact City Hall at (707) 746-4225 for assistance with estimating your bill or visit www.ci.benicia.ca.us and click on the link for the "Proposed 2016 Water/Sewer Rates" to access a convenient online tool for estimating your bill.

Please see the following pages for the proposed water & sewer rates, and rate stabilization rates.

Current vs. Proposed Bimonthly WATER Rates.

The bimonthly figures are provided as the City bills customers every other month. See the Rate Study on the City's website at www.ci.benicia.ca.us for more detail.

| Current vs. Proposed Bimonthly Water Rates | Current Rates (Bimonthly) | Recommended Bimonthly Water Rates ¹ | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | FY 2016/17 | FY 2017/18 | FY 2018/19 | FY 2019/20 | FY 2020/21 |
| Fixed Service Charge | | | | | | |
| Single Family Service Charge: | \$39.72 | \$26.00 | \$30.16 | \$33.18 | \$34.18 | \$35.20 |
| Multiple Family Service Charge* (per EDU or Equivalent Dwelling Unit): | \$29.82 | * Multi-Family and Mobile Home Park Customers are no longer included in the Residential Customer Class; Fixed Charges will be based on meter size as shown below. | | | | |
| Mobile Home Park Service Charge* (per EDU): | \$29.82 | | | | | |
| All Other Users Fixed Charge (Excl. Commercial Fire) | | | | | | |
| 5/8 inch | \$51.30 | \$29.80 | \$34.56 | \$38.02 | \$39.16 | \$40.34 |
| 3/4 inch | \$51.30 | \$43.52 | \$50.48 | \$55.54 | \$57.20 | \$58.92 |
| 1 inch | \$91.14 | \$70.98 | \$82.34 | \$90.58 | \$93.28 | \$96.08 |
| 1.5 inch | \$205.00 | \$139.62 | \$161.96 | \$178.16 | \$183.50 | \$189.00 |
| 2 inch | \$364.34 | \$222.00 | \$257.52 | \$283.26 | \$291.76 | \$300.52 |
| 3 inch | \$819.72 | \$414.20 | \$480.46 | \$528.50 | \$544.36 | \$560.70 |
| 4 inch | \$1,457.18 | \$826.04 | \$958.20 | \$1,054.02 | \$1,085.66 | \$1,118.22 |
| 6 inch | \$3,278.58 | \$1,855.68 | \$2,152.58 | \$2,367.84 | \$2,438.88 | \$2,512.04 |
| 8 inch | -- | \$2,473.44 | \$2,869.20 | \$3,156.12 | \$3,250.80 | \$3,348.32 |
| 10 inch | -- | \$3,297.16 | \$3,824.70 | \$4,207.16 | \$4,333.38 | \$4,463.38 |
| Fixed Charge Commercial Fire Sprinkler Meters | | | | | | |
| Automatic Sprinkler Service Charge: | | | | | | |
| 5/8 inch | -- | \$2.86 | \$3.32 | \$3.64 | \$3.76 | \$3.88 |
| 3/4 inch | -- | \$3.12 | \$3.64 | \$4.00 | \$4.12 | \$4.24 |
| 1 inch | -- | \$3.68 | \$4.26 | \$4.68 | \$4.82 | \$4.96 |
| 1.5 inch | -- | \$5.02 | \$5.82 | \$6.40 | \$6.60 | \$6.80 |
| 2 inch | \$26.96 | \$6.64 | \$7.70 | \$8.48 | \$8.74 | \$9.00 |
| 3 inch | -- | \$10.42 | \$12.10 | \$13.30 | \$13.70 | \$14.12 |
| 4 inch | \$47.18 | \$21.24 | \$24.64 | \$27.10 | \$27.92 | \$28.76 |
| 6 inch | \$66.78 | \$45.58 | \$52.88 | \$58.16 | \$59.90 | \$61.70 |
| 8 inch | \$87.54 | \$78.02 | \$90.50 | \$99.56 | \$102.54 | \$105.62 |
| 10 inch | \$107.56 | \$121.28 | \$140.70 | \$154.76 | \$159.40 | \$164.18 |
| 12 inch | \$127.76 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Private Fire Hydrants Service Charge: | | | | | | |
| Double outlet & steamer | \$33.70 | \$21.24 | \$24.64 | \$27.10 | \$27.92 | \$28.76 |
| Single outlet & wharf | \$10.14 | \$21.24 | \$24.64 | \$27.10 | \$27.92 | \$28.76 |
| Volumetric Charge² Applied to bimonthly use | | | | | | |
| Single Family Residential: | | | | | | |
| Tier 1, 0 - 16 hcf | \$2.60 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Tier 2, 16+ - 60 hcf | \$4.07 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Tier 3, 60+ hcf | \$4.56 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Single Tier, Rate per hcf | -- | \$3.56 | \$4.13 | \$4.54 | \$4.67 | \$4.81 |
| Non-Residential: | | | | | | |
| Tier 1, 0 - 60 hcf | \$3.29 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Tier 2, 60+ hcf | \$3.99 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Single Tier, Rate per hcf | -- | \$3.56 | \$4.13 | \$4.54 | \$4.67 | \$4.81 |
| Industrial & Construction Hydrants | | | | | | |
| Single Tier, Rate per hcf | -- | \$3.56 | \$4.13 | \$4.54 | \$4.67 | \$4.81 |

1. Does not include meter (AMI) fee

2. Current tiers include drought surcharge

Current vs. Proposed Bimonthly SEWER Rates.

The bimonthly figures are provided as the City bills customers every other month. See the Rate Study on the City's website at www.ci.benicia.ca.us for more detail.

| Current vs. Proposed Bimonthly Sewer Rates | Current Rates (Bimonthly) | Recommended Bimonthly Sewer Rates | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | FY 2016/17 | FY 2017/18 | FY 2018/19 | FY 2019/20 | FY 2020/21 |
| Fixed Service Charge - Residential | | | | | | |
| Residential ¹ (Per EDU) | \$110.78 | \$86.90 | \$97.34 | \$106.10 | \$113.52 | \$119.20 |
| Fixed Service Charge - Commercial & Industrial | | | | | | |
| Commercial & Industrial - Low Use (Per account) ² | N.A. | \$129.28 | \$144.80 | \$157.84 | \$168.88 | \$177.34 |
| Commercial & Industrial - Medium Use (Per account) ² | N.A. | \$268.36 | \$300.56 | \$327.62 | \$350.54 | \$368.08 |
| Commercial & Industrial - High Use (Per account) ² | N.A. | \$806.40 | \$903.16 | \$984.44 | \$1,053.34 | \$1,106.02 |
| Municipal (Per EDU) ² | N.A. | \$256.80 | \$287.66 | \$313.50 | \$335.46 | \$352.22 |
| Volumetric Charge (\$/hcf) - Applied to bimonthly use | | | | | | |
| Residential (Capped at 18 hcf per EDU) | N.A. | \$2.54 | \$2.85 | \$3.10 | \$3.32 | \$3.49 |
| Commercial & Industrial - Low Use (Per account) ² | N.A. | \$4.05 | \$4.54 | \$4.95 | \$5.29 | \$5.56 |
| Commercial & Industrial - Medium Use (Per account) ² | N.A. | \$4.49 | \$5.03 | \$5.48 | \$5.86 | \$6.15 |
| Commercial & Industrial - High Use (Per account) ² | N.A. | \$8.40 | \$9.40 | \$10.25 | \$10.97 | \$11.52 |
| Municipal (Per EDU) ² | N.A. | \$4.77 | \$5.34 | \$5.82 | \$6.23 | \$6.54 |

1. Includes Single-Family, Multi-Family and Mobile Homes; Customers are assessed on the basis of their number of EDUs.

2. Commercial and Industrial accounts current bills calculated on multiple factors including, load, strength, and volume. The new rates consolidate these variables into fixed and volumetric rates.

Low Income Discount:

The proposed new rates include a low income discount program that is funded by the City's General Fund (not subsidized by water rate revenue) to offer reductions in water bills. Please note this program differs from the current discount programs, which are: 1) low income seniors, and 2) seniors only, regardless of income level (this latter program has been phased out and terminates effective June 30, 2016 per prior City Council action).

The proposed new program will expand eligibility beyond low income seniors to all low income customers who qualify for PG&E's CARE discount program. For more information, contact the City Public Works Department at (707) 746-4240.

| Low Income Discount Bimonthly | Current Discounts | Recommended Low Income Discount | | | | |
|--|-------------------|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | FY 2016/17 | FY 2017/18 | FY 2018/19 | FY 2019/20 | FY 2020/21 |
| Low-Income Discount: | | Low Income Discount Per Account, Bimonthly¹: | | | | |
| Single Family Service Charge: | \$ 19.86 | \$ 14.20 | \$ 16.40 | \$ 18.20 | \$ 18.60 | \$ 19.20 |
| Multiple Family Service Charge: | \$ 14.91 | \$ 14.20 | \$ 16.40 | \$ 18.20 | \$ 18.60 | \$ 19.20 |

1. Proposed Low Income Discount applies to Fixed Rate only. This rate structure is easier to administer and is consistent with promoting conservation.

Rate Stabilization:

Rate stabilization rates for **WATER** are presented below. Since Benicia is currently in a Stage 3 Conservation Scenario, the volumetric water rates shown below for Stage 3 are identical to the new volumetric water charges shown earlier on page 6 (i.e., no additional charge).

In the event additional conservation is required due to drought conditions, Stage 4 or 5 rates will apply depending on the level of conservation mandated.

| Rate Stabilization - Water | Current Rates ¹ | Recommended Rate Stabilization Water Rates | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | FY 2016/17 | FY 2017/18 | FY 2018/19 | FY 2019/20 | FY 2020/21 |
| Rate Stabilization Volumetric Rates (% increase to existing rate/hcf) | | | | | | |
| Conservation Scenario (for all customer classes) | | | | | | |
| Stage 3 (30% Conservation) | | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Stage 4 (40% Conservation) | | 10% | 10% | 10% | 10% | 10% |
| Stage 5 (50% Conservation) | | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% |
| Rate Stabilization Volumetric Rates (\$/hcf) | | | | | | |
| Single Family Residential: | | | | | | |
| Stage 3 (30% Conservation) | -- | \$3.56 | \$4.13 | \$4.54 | \$4.67 | \$4.81 |
| Stage 4 (40% Conservation) | -- | \$3.91 | \$4.54 | \$4.99 | \$5.14 | \$5.30 |
| Stage 5 (50% Conservation) | -- | \$4.27 | \$4.95 | \$5.45 | \$5.61 | \$5.78 |
| Non-Residential: | | | | | | |
| Stage 3 (30% Conservation) | -- | \$3.56 | \$4.13 | \$4.54 | \$4.67 | \$4.81 |
| Stage 4 (40% Conservation) | -- | \$3.91 | \$4.54 | \$4.99 | \$5.14 | \$5.30 |
| Stage 5 (50% Conservation) | -- | \$4.27 | \$4.95 | \$5.45 | \$5.61 | \$5.78 |
| Industrial & Construction Hydrants | | | | | | |
| Stage 3 (30% Conservation) | -- | \$3.56 | \$4.13 | \$4.54 | \$4.67 | \$4.81 |
| Stage 4 (40% Conservation) | -- | \$3.91 | \$4.54 | \$4.99 | \$5.14 | \$5.30 |
| Stage 5 (50% Conservation) | -- | \$4.27 | \$4.95 | \$5.45 | \$5.61 | \$5.78 |

1. The City currently has Drought Surcharges per volumetric tier; the Rate Stabilization Volumetric Rates are intended to replace the Drought Surcharges.

2. Benicia is currently in Stage 3 Conservation Scenario.

Rate stabilization rates for **SEWER** are presented below. Since Benicia is currently in a Stage 3 Conservation Scenario, the volumetric water rates shown below for Stage 3 are identical to the new volumetric water charges shown earlier on page 7. (i.e., no additional charge)

In the event additional conservation is required due to drought conditions, Stage 4 or 5 rates will apply depending on the level of conservation mandated.

| Rate Stabilization -Sewer | Current Rates | Recommended Rate Stabilization Sewer Rates | | | | |
|--|---------------|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | FY 2016/17 | FY 2017/18 | FY 2018/19 | FY 2019/20 | FY 2020/21 |
| Rate Stabilization Volumetric Rates (% increase to existing rate/HCF) - Adjusted for Drought Stages¹ | | | | | | |
| Conservation Scenario (for all customer classes) | | | | | | |
| Stage 3 (30% Conservation) ¹ | N.A. | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Stage 4 (40% Conservation) | N.A. | 8% | 8% | 8% | 8% | 8% |
| Stage 5 (50% Conservation) | N.A. | 16% | 16% | 16% | 16% | 16% |
| Rate Stabilization Volumetric Rates (\$/HCF) - Adjusted for Drought Stages | | | | | | |
| Residential | | | | | | |
| Stage 3 (30% Conservation) ¹ | N.A. | \$2.54 | \$2.85 | \$3.10 | \$3.32 | \$3.49 |
| Stage 4 (40% Conservation) | N.A. | \$2.75 | \$3.08 | \$3.35 | \$3.59 | \$3.77 |
| Stage 5 (50% Conservation) | N.A. | \$2.96 | \$3.32 | \$3.62 | \$3.87 | \$4.06 |
| Commercial & Industrial - Low Use | | | | | | |
| Stage 3 (30% Conservation) ¹ | N.A. | \$4.05 | \$4.54 | \$4.95 | \$5.29 | \$5.56 |
| Stage 4 (40% Conservation) | N.A. | \$4.38 | \$4.91 | \$5.35 | \$5.72 | \$6.01 |
| Stage 5 (50% Conservation) | N.A. | \$4.72 | \$5.29 | \$5.76 | \$6.17 | \$6.47 |
| Commercial & Industrial - Medium Use | | | | | | |
| Stage 3 (30% Conservation) ¹ | N.A. | \$4.49 | \$5.03 | \$5.48 | \$5.86 | \$6.15 |
| Stage 4 (40% Conservation) | N.A. | \$4.85 | \$5.43 | \$5.92 | \$6.33 | \$6.65 |
| Stage 5 (50% Conservation) | N.A. | \$5.23 | \$5.85 | \$6.38 | \$6.83 | \$7.17 |
| Commercial & Industrial - High Use | | | | | | |
| Stage 3 (30% Conservation) ¹ | N.A. | \$8.40 | \$9.40 | \$10.25 | \$10.97 | \$11.52 |
| Stage 4 (40% Conservation) | N.A. | \$9.07 | \$10.16 | \$11.08 | \$11.85 | \$12.44 |
| Stage 5 (50% Conservation) | N.A. | \$9.78 | \$10.95 | \$11.94 | \$12.77 | \$13.41 |
| Municipal | | | | | | |
| Stage 3 (30% Conservation) ¹ | N.A. | \$4.77 | \$5.34 | \$5.82 | \$6.23 | \$6.54 |
| Stage 4 (40% Conservation) | N.A. | \$5.15 | \$5.77 | \$6.29 | \$6.73 | \$7.06 |
| Stage 5 (50% Conservation) | N.A. | \$5.55 | \$6.22 | \$6.78 | \$7.25 | \$7.61 |

1. Benicia is currently in Stage 3 Conservation Scenario.

How to Protest the Rates:

If you wish to protest the proposed rate increases, you may do so by providing the following in writing:

- (1) A description of the property, such as the address, utility account number (shown on your bill) or Solano County Assessor's Parcel Number (APN);
- (2) The name(s) of the property owner(s) or bill payer(s);
- (3) Whether the protest is in opposition to the water rate increase, the sewer rate increase, and/or the meter fee; and
- (4) Signature of either the property owner or bill payer.

The protest needs to be received by the City Clerk no later than the close of the public hearing on **August 16, 2016**.

In order to be in compliance with Proposition 218, written protests must be filed via US Mail or hand-delivered to the City Clerk. Please do not send via email or FAX.

Please note that only one protest for each property will be counted.

Please send or deliver your written protest to the City Clerk at 250 East L Street, Benicia, CA 94510. **For your convenience, a protest form is provided below.**

If you have already submitted a protest in response to the April 2016 notice, you do not need to send another protest form.

Questions?

We want to answer any questions you may have.

Please visit us at the City's booth at Farmers Market on Thursday evenings on First St.

-OR-

Drop in at City Hall on Mondays from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. or Fridays from 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

-OR-

Call us at (707) 746-4200

-OR-

Visit our website at www.ci.benicia.ca.us and utilize our handy bill estimator tool.

-OR-

Attend the Public Hearing on August 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Sample Protest Form:



2016 Proposed Water and Sewer Rate Increases

WRITTEN PROTEST FORM—Mail or Deliver to City Clerk at 250 East L Street, Benicia, CA 94510

Property Owner or Bill Payer Name: _____

Property Address, Utility Account Number OR Assessor's Parcel Number: _____

I oppose the Proposed Rate Increase (check one or more): Water Sewer Water Meter Fee

Signed _____ Date _____