



# Ramona Municipal Water District

A Public Agency Organized August 15, 1956

Attached is a Notice of Public Hearing of the Ramona Municipal Water District to be held at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, June 24, 2008 at the Ramona Community Center, 434 Aqua Lane, to consider proposed water and sewer rate increases, to be effective as of July 1, 2008. Over 11,000 of these notices are being mailed to the record owner of each parcel upon which the increased rates are proposed for imposition and to tenants of such parcels who are directly liable to pay the proposed fee. Below is a summary of the reasons for the proposed increases to the Ramona Municipal Water District's water and sewer fees and the amounts of the proposed rate increases that would appear on future water bills and on the County Property Tax bills, where appropriate.

## **The "ELEC RATE" on water bills**

The Ramona Municipal Water District (RMWD) obtains treated drinking water and untreated irrigation water from San Diego County Water Authority (CWA) pipelines that pass through the City of Poway. RMWD maintains a Poway Pump Station that contains large electric motors totaling 7,500 horsepower that drive pumps to lift the water 1,000 feet up the hill to Ramona. There are numerous other booster pump/motors totaling 1,200 horsepower that move the imported water around in the Ramona community after it arrives up the hill. In the new fiscal year that will begin on July 1, 2008, the SDG&E electricity bills for water fund facilities are estimated to total \$2.5 million.

Since the California electricity crisis in 2001, RMWD established a special entry on retail water bills to pass through the cost of electricity to the customers ("ELEC RATE"). In the current fiscal year ending on June 30, 2008, the ELEC rate has been \$0.52 per unit, where a unit is 100 cubic feet or 748 gallons. Because of the recent increases in SDG&E's rates, RMWD will increase the ELEC rate to \$0.56 per unit which is an increase of 7.5%, effective for water consumed beginning on July 1, 2008.

## **The "WATER" rate on the water bills**

Effective July 1, 2008, the Board proposes to increase the WATER rates by 5.3%. Customers using treated (drinking) water would see an increase from \$2.47 per unit to \$2.60. Untreated (irrigation) rates would increase by 3.0% and would go from \$1.73 to \$1.78. Lifeline rates for customers using less than 5 HCFs per month would go from \$1.24 to \$1.30. The rate for special construction water would go from \$4.94 to \$5.20. All these increases are necessary to cover the general annual inflation in the cost for personnel and materials, plus \$1.1 million for critical infrastructure replacements.

## **San Vicente or Santa Maria Sewer Service fees on the County Property Tax Bills**

The San Vicente Sewer System serves parcels located mostly in San Diego Country Estates and the Rancho San Vicente/Ryland Homes development. The Santa Maria System serves those parcels located mostly in the downtown Ramona area and the Mt. Woodson development. Except for a few special cases, the annual sewer service fees are collected on the annual County Property Tax bills each year. The proposed San Vicente sewer service fee in the new fiscal year would be increased by 3.5%, from \$443.87 to \$459.41, annually, and the Santa Maria sewer service fee would be increased by 3.5% from \$458.93 to \$474.99 annually. These increases are needed to recover additional operating costs.

**Questions** - If there are any questions or comments, please refer to the attached notice for more detailed information about the proposed rate increases, or contact the RMWD's office, or attend the noticed hearing on June 24, 2008.

**Thank You,**

**Ramona Municipal Water District  
105 Earlham Street  
P.O. 1829  
Ramona, CA 92065-0916  
(760)788-2203**

Attachments

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Board of Directors of the Ramona Municipal Water District (RMWD) will conduct a Public Hearing on June 24, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. in the Ramona Community Center at 434 Aqua Lane, Ramona CA 92065, to consider the adoption of increases in its water and sewer rates for all customer classes. The following tables show the rates being considered for each customer group.

**WATER**

The principal reasons for the following proposed water rate increases for all customer classes are to provide revenues sufficient to meet costs incurred by the water system, including but not limited to, wholesale water purchases, water distribution, water facilities and equipment maintenance, capital projects and financing, billing, and customer account management:

**Water Rate Increases, per Unit, (hundred cubic feet, or 748 gallons), as of July 1, 2008**

Treated (drinking) water					Untreated (irrigation) water				
	Current	Change	New	% Chg		Current	Change	New	% Chg
WATER RATE	\$2.47	\$0.13	\$2.60	5.3%	WATER RATE	\$1.73	\$0.05	\$1.78	3.0%
ELEC RATE	\$0.52	\$0.04	\$0.56	7.5%	ELEC RATE	\$0.52	\$0.04	\$0.56	7.5%
LIFELINE	\$1.24	\$0.06	\$1.30	4.8%					
CONSTRUCTION	\$4.94	\$0.26	\$5.20	5.3%					

**SEWER**

The principal reasons for the following proposed sewer rate increases for all customer classes are to provide revenues sufficient to meet costs incurred by the sewer system, including but not limited to, sewer collection and treatment, sewer facilities and equipment maintenance, capital projects and financing, billing, and customer account management:

**San Vicente Sewer**

	Current	Change	New	% Chg
ANNUAL FEE	\$443.87	\$15.54	\$459.41	3.5%

**Santa Maria Sewer**

	Current	Change	New	% Chg
ANNUAL FEE	\$458.93	\$16.06	\$474.99	3.5%

At the Public Hearing, RMWD shall consider all protests against the proposed fees and charges. Written protests may be submitted to the RMWD Office at the above-referenced address or in the Board hearing room on the day of the public hearing so long as they are received prior to the close of the public hearing. Any written protest must include your name, your mailing address and signature. E-mail protests will not be accepted. Oral comments at the public hearing will not qualify as formal protests unless accompanied by a written protest. For any written protest mailed to RMWD, please write the following on the front of the envelope, whether mailed or submitted in person to the RMWD's Office, "Water and Sewer Service Rates Public Hearing on June 24, 2008." At the close of the public hearing, the Board will consider and may establish and impose the proposed increases to the water and sewer services rates. If, by the close of the public hearing written protests against the establishment and imposition of the proposed increases to the water and sewer services rates are not presented by a majority of those receiving this notice, the Board will be authorized to establish and impose the proposed increases to the water and sewer rates.