AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Public Hearing - Proposition 218 Hearing for Water and Wastewater Rate Changes for Fiscal Year 2012

PROTEST LETTERS FOR WASTE WATER
May 2, 2011

City Clerk
City of Palo Alto
250 Hamilton Ave
Palo Alto, CA 94301

RE: Objection to Proposed Utility Rate Increases

Gentlemen,

I am writing this letter to object to the increase in the utility rates. This increase would adversely affect most, those with the lowest earnings and the retired and elderly.

Very truly yours,

Robert K. Stitt
Pau Acct. #: 132153-42677
On June 13, 2011, the Palo Alto City Council will consider proposed changes to the City’s water, and wastewater collection services rates for the fiscal year that begins in July 2011. If approved, the revised rates will be effective starting July 1, 2011.

**WASTEWATER**

Wastewater Utility rates are imposed in order that the City may recover its costs of transporting and treating wastewater. All revenue derived from the proposed rates and charges will be used exclusively for the recovery of costs associated with providing wastewater service and to fund the capital improvement program required in order to maintain and periodically replace aging wastewater infrastructure. The Wastewater Utility’s wastewater rates and charges are developed based on generally accepted cost of service principles. They are evaluated on an annual basis to determine if adequate revenues will be collected to pay for operations and maintenance costs and to provide funds for the capital improvement program. More information regarding the proposed wastewater rate changes can be found on the City’s website at [www.cityofpaloalto.org/rateincrease](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/rateincrease)

**Proposed Wastewater Rate Increases:**

The proposed wastewater rate structure for residential customers continues to have a monthly charge and no volumetric component. Rates for commercial customers continue to have a “volumetric” charge for each ccf of water consumed during the billing period, and a minimum monthly charge should the calculation for volumetric charges fall below that level. The qualifications for Large Dischargers have been modified placing customers formerly under that schedule on general applicable Commercial rates.

The following chart shows the current and proposed wastewater rate schedule components:

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**WATER**

Water Utility rates are imposed in order that the City may recover its costs of buying and distributing water. All revenue derived from the proposed rates and charges will be used exclusively for the recovery of costs associated with providing water service and to fund the capital improvement program required in order to maintain and periodically replace aging water infrastructure. The Water Utility’s water rates and charges are developed based on generally accepted cost of service principles. They are evaluated on an annual basis to determine if adequate revenues will be collected to pay for operations and maintenance costs and to provide funds for the capital improvement program. More information regarding the proposed water rate changes can be found on the City’s website at [www.cityofpaloalto.org/rateincrease](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/rateincrease)
May 5, 2011

City of Palo Alto
City Clerk
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

967 Oregon Expressway, Palo Alto, CA

To Whom It May Concern:

We protest the potable water increases as proposed as excessive and adding charges in excess of inflation.

 a. Your own letter states that a component of the increases is for the increased wholesale third party rates.
 b. The City needs to demand that the wholesale water districts and the State of California start efforts to increase water supplies.
 c. The City needs to demand of the State and Federal governments that ill-advised court rulings to stop pumping and delivering water to users to protect the non-native delta smelt, need to be overturned by whatever means necessary.

We protest the Storms Sewer increases as proposed as excessive and adding charges in excess of inflation:

 a. Your own letter states that a component of the increases are for regulatory compliance
 b. The City needs to resist and demand that the regulatory agencies justify their regulations on a cost benefit basis.
 c. Developers have told you time and time again that the cost of the storm water regulations is exorbitant and ineffective yet the City takes no action.
 d. Developers have told you time and time again that the storm water regulation compliance costs should be, instead of being required on site, be instead, collected and used to fund regional facilities, steam bed restoration and clean up, regional detention.
 e. The public and private cost of designing, approving and administering the storm water regulation compliance costs on thousands of individual projects is largely wasted versus using the same expenditures on one or several regional projects.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Myron Crawford
Email: mcrawford@missionwest.com
Ph. 408-725-633
City of P.A.

Re: Proposed Water and Wastewater

Please be informed that I protest any increase in water and wastewater rates.

Kathy Tullus
2450 W. Bayshore #1
Palo Alto, CA 94303
Account #3000 816 2

Kathy Tullus
To City of Palo Alto Utilities

Re: Protest rate changes for Water and Wastewater

From: Huangpin Hsieh
3290 Berryessa St., Palo Alto, CA 94303

I protest the wastewater rate change because the rate or the proposed changes does not have an element to encourage conservation such as the incremental rates for water. It appears the residential wastewater rate is increased to subsidize the decrease for commercial or restaurant uses. I propose the wastewater rates to be adjusted to reflect the water usage—after all, water after use becomes wastewater to be treated.

I also protest the water rate adjustment because it reduces the discrimination against heavy usage that could discourage conservation. Although the volumetric per ccf is reduced for first 6 ccf, the service charge increase significantly out pace it. I would suggest not change the service fee but raise the volumetric fee on high volume usage even more to encourage conservation, unless the goal of the change does not include encouraging conservation?

Best Regards,

Huangpin Hsieh

5/10/2011
May 20, 2011

City Clerk
250 Hamilton Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94301

RE: Protest to Projected Rise in City Water Rates & Wastewater Collection Services to be considered on June 13, 2011

ATTENTION: Palo Alto City Council

As a resident of Palo Alto, I strongly object to a rise in present rates to be considered on June 13, 2011.

I recall that in 2010 the garbage disposal rates were increased.

I recall also the breach of contract with Enron Corp. which the City of Palo made with Enron. The result of a suit by Enron amounted to millions of dollars in damages the City had to pay for its breach of contract.

The City Council should realize that in Palo Alto while there are many well-to-do residents, many in our city are struggling to survive in a time of great economic depression.

Unfortunately, many property owners in Palo Alto are afflicted with an oppressive beaurocracy with too many rules, regulations, which serve to control its citizens rather than to serve them.

This letter is meant to OBJECT to any further rise in utility rates.

The undersigned resident is a property owner at the address given above and with a utility contract number of 300221721.

This objection is timely given prior to the hearing on this matter set for June 13, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond V. Dunn
Palo Alto Resident and property owner
Himanshu Dwivedi  
2410 Bryant Street  
Palo Alto, CA 94301  

To whom it may concern:  

I am writing this letter to protest the proposed Wastewater and water rate increases. I live at 2410 Bryant Street; Palo Alto, CA.

Thanks,

Himanshu Dwivedi
City of Palo Alto
Palo Alto, CA 94301
Attn: City Clerk

Subject: objection to bill increase

To whom it may concern:

This is to notify you of my objection/protect to a rate increase fee:

1) Water Commodity
2) Wastewater Service

My address
3687 Bragge St.
Palo Alto, CA 94306
Acc#: 300-16-397

Wayne E. March
05.05.11
City Clerk
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Dear City Council, Mayor, Clerk & Utility Department,

I am writing to express my protest of rate increases to residential property both in water and wastewater. I do not think these increases are warranted. The size of the wastewater increase at over 13% is just unbelievable. In terms of general water usage, most home owners would see between 8-35% increases. These are just too much for Palo Alto households to endure. I think money charged for utilities should be used for that and not passed over to other city budget lines that are coming up short. These rate increases are not necessary and I do protest.

[Signature]
City of PA: 4/30/11

I am writing to protest the Utility rate adjustment for Water and/or wastewater.

Enough is enough, my hours have been cut back severely at work... and all prices seem to continue to go up, when my pay check keeps going down.

Sincerely,

Shikten Hunter
738 E. Charleston Rd
Palo Alto, Ca 94303
City Clerk
City of Palo Alto
250 Hamilton Ave.
Palo Alto CA 94301

Dear City Council:

This is a protest against the proposed utility rate changes as apply to the parcel of address 763 E. Charleston Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94303-4706.

I protest the proposed increase in the monthly wastewater rate.

I protest the proposed increase in the monthly water service charge.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Fischer
May 9, 2011

City Clerk
City of Palo Alto
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Re: Protest of proposed utility rates for 2011

Acct Number: 300 12674
Parcel Number 137-08-054-00

Attn City Clerk and City Council;
Address See letterhead above

This letter is written to protest the proposed increases in water rates and waste water rates. The city currently extracts millions of dollars from the sizable profits made by the utility department, including, if I understand this correctly, profits from the water utility. The city management and the Council have demonstrated over the years, that the utility department profits are used to balance the city’s General Fund. While a certain amount of this transfer of profits may be justified, the ever increasing amounts are not in my opinion, especially when the Council continues to spend funds for special interest groups like the children’s theater and zoo, while we are faced with years of annual deficits. Giving the Council more money only prolongs the inevitable when the Council and the managers must bring spending to the level the city can afford and stops spending money on unneeded consultants and such.

In addition, it is my understanding, AND I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE CORRECT INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT IF I AM WRONG, that it is against state law to use water utility profits for any purpose other than for the water utility needs. If the city is transferring water profits along with gas and electric profits, then the law is being violated and this practice must stop. All the more reason why the water rates should not be increased.

That the city owns the utility department is supposed to be reason for our rates to be lower than PG&E. They are not. The city should be making efforts to accomplish this once promised benefit.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Placone
City Clerk
City of Palo Alto
250 Hamilton Ave
Palo Alto Ca 94301

City Clerk, Please note that I am protesting the proposed Water and Wastewater rate adjustments that were outlined in the Notice of Utility Rate Change dated April 25, 2011 and mailed to my home.

Regards,

Gary Holl
200 Colorado Ave
Palo Alto, Ca 94301
May 10, 2011

Re: Wastewater Rate Increase.

My account number is: 30010361

I am writing to protest the proposed City of Palo Alto Utilities Wastewater Rate Increases. I do not want the rates to be increased.

Thank you,

Larry Shapiro
391 Curtner Ave, Apt A
Palo Alto, CA 94306-3426
May 23, 2011

City Clerk of Palo Alto
250 Hamilton Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Re: Written Protests to Proposed Wastewater Rate Increases and Proposed Water Rate Increases

Dear City Clerk:

I proposed wastewater and water rate increases are highly discriminatory in favor of Commercial and Restaurant customers and against Residential customers as shown.

Wastewater
On S1-Residential and S2-Commercial & Restaurant you are hiking the rates by 13.2%, while on S2-Commercial and S2-Restaurant you propose to lower those rates by 6.3% and 10.5% respectively. Why should Residential rates be raised significantly while at the same time the Commercial and Restaurant rates are being lowered? The swing is almost 20% in favor of S2-Commercial and almost 24% in favor of S2-Restaurant. If rates are going to be raised, shouldn't all entities, whether Commercial, Restaurant and Residential all bear the increases? Instead the home owners are being severely punished in favor of the Commercial and Restaurant interests.

Water
Volumetric Charges
Here you propose to lower the rates for W4-Commercial by almost 10%. You throw a bone to those using 6ccf or less residentially, which seems hard to do if you have any landscaping at all but increase W1-Residential by over 8% between 7-29 ccf and a whopping 35.8% increase to $7.64 per ccf for those using over 29 ccf. Anyone owning a residence with a lot of more than 8,000 sq. ft. is paying outrageous amounts to water their landscaping, while W4-Commercial can use any amount of water they wish at the fixed rate of $4.946 per ccf. The break points seem totally arbitrary and unfavorable to Residential customers.

Water Service Charges
Residences and Commercial with meters between 5/8 inch and 2 inch have their service raised anywhere from 100% to 120%, while Commercial with meters between 3 inches and 10 inches have their rates raised on average only about 60%.

Commercial and Restaurant customers should bear their fair share of any rate increases, as opposed to receiving decreases at the expense of Residential customers. As with federal and state representatives, our local officials are elected to serve the most citizens, not to cater to the special interests.

Sincerely,

Irving S. and Lesley Rappaport
PROTESTING RATE INCREASES

I do not agree the proposed rate increase for water and wastewater that will be effective July 2, 2011.

Property owner name: ManKie Ng

Property address: 4250 El Camino Real #A303. Palo Alto, CA 94306

Parcel # 167-55-080-00

5/3/2011

ManKie Ng
Date: June 7, 2011

To: City of Palo Alto
   City Clerk
   250 Hamilton Ave.
   Palo Alto, CA 94301

From: Lily Ng
   1015 Embarcadero Rd.
   Palo Alto, CA 94303

Re: I'm writing to protest against the water and wastewater utility rate adjustment.

Lily Ng
May 3, 2011

City Clerk
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Dear City Clerk:

Your notice of water/wastewater rate increases arrived last week. We have some significant concerns, based on the information provided.

Wastewater: It appears from the chart that $1$-Residential and $2$-Commercial & Restaurant pay the same rates for wastewater services, and that a $13.2\%$ rate increase is proposed. I do not think that it is fair that commercial and restaurants pay the same as residential for two reasons:

1) A large portion of residential water does not go back into the wastewater treatment system, but in fact is absorbed into the ground. Most homes use a lot of water on landscaping, while it is unusual that restaurants and businesses have extensive landscaping.

2) Commercial & restaurants use more water that goes directly into the wastewater treatment system than residences.

For these reasons, I think that residential rates should be less for wastewater treatment.

Water: I think that increasing the base charge per month hurts individuals who are conserving water. Water rates should be based on the amount used, not for the fact that one has water in a home or business. I see no justification for raising the base service charge. If Palo Alto really wants people to conserve water, then raise the rate for the amount used.

If you need further thoughts or clarification, please contact us at the address below.

Sincerely,

Steve and Nancy Suddjian
703 Ensign Way
Palo Alto, CA 94303
June 1, 2011

Palo Alto City Council
E/O City Clerk
250 Hamilton Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Gentlemen

In regard to a raise in the water rates, we strongly protest. Our very very high utility bills are more than adequate to cover wastewater service and infrastructure costs. All that is needed is to give back to the general fund.

Please consider this as three (3) separate protests.

Christopher & Josephine Arnold

Parcel # 120-20-024 (248 Waverley)
Parcel # 003-01-056 (357 Fulton Ave)
Parcel # 003-01-042 (112 Everett Ave)
Protest against Palo Alto Utility Rate Change

Current street address: 476 Fernando Ave. Palo Alto CA 94306

Protesting: Water and Wastewater rate change.

Reason: Palo Alto already has the highest water rate and wastewater rate in the Bay Area. I used to live in San Jose, the water rate there for the total monthly usage from 0 to 13 CCF is $2.5157.

<table>
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<td>San Jose</td>
<td>$2.5157</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Palo Alto</td>
<td>$3.949</td>
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<td><strong>Sewer Rate</strong></td>
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<td>San Jose</td>
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Please see the attached rate comparison chart. The problem with Palo Alto is that we have a distributor: Palo Alto Utility Company. If city buys water directly from the water company, you can avoid the unnecessary expense for hiring a utility management company. They contracted out garbage service already, why do we need to keep these staffing? San Jose does not have a centralized utility company, I used to get separate bills from water company, PG&E and Waste Recycle company.

We might end up with three bills from different utility vendors, but if this will dramatically reduce the transition cost, I do not mind paying three bills instead of one.

Sibing Wei
WASTEWATER

Wastewater Utility rates are imposed in order that the City may recover its costs of transporting and treating wastewater. All revenue derived from the proposed rates and charges will be used exclusively for the recovery of costs associated with providing wastewater service and to fund the capital improvement program required in order to maintain and periodically replace aging wastewater infrastructure. The Wastewater Utility's wastewater rates and charges are developed based on generally accepted cost of service principles. They are evaluated on an annual basis to determine if adequate revenues will be collected to pay for operations and maintenance costs and to provide funds for the capital improvement program. More information regarding the proposed wastewater rate changes can be found on the City's website at www.cityofpaloalto.org/rateincrease

Proposed Wastewater Rate Increases:
The proposed wastewater rate structure for residential customers continues to have a monthly charge and no volumetric component. Rates for commercial customers continue to have a "volumetric" charge for each ccf of water consumed during the billing period, and a minimum monthly charge should the calculation for volumetric charges fall below that level. The qualifications for Large Dischargers have been modified placing customers formerly under that schedule on general applicable Commercial rates.

The following chart shows the current and proposed wastewater rate schedule components:

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June 1, 2011

Palo Alto City Council
City Clerk
250 Hamilton Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Gentlemen

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Please consider this as three (3) separate protests.

Christopher & Josephine Arnold

Parcel # 180-20-024 (248 Waverly)
Parcel # 003-01-050 (357 Fulton Ave)
Parcel # 003-01-0112 (116 Everett Ave)
Dear Ms. Grider,

I write to protest the increase in rates of the water service and the wastewater service.

I protest the proposed increase in water rate IT IS UNJUSTIFIED.

I protest the proposed increase in wastewater rate IT IS UNJUSTIFIED.

I most strongly object to inappropriately increasing utility costs to rate payers in order to make a profit center operation of the utility department.

Sincerely,

RICHARD A. RUNKEL
741 GARLAND DRIVE
PALO ALTO, CA 94303
650 327 7589

Richard A. Runkel
Written Protest

Hi, City of Palo Alto,

I'm writing to protest both water and wastewater rates increases. My address is

2360 Harvard Street
Palo Alto, CA 94306
APN# 137-05-084

Please do NOT increase the rates!

Sincerely,

Walter Zen
(Walter Lee)
May 23, 2011, 2011

Account No: 30037474
3721 Heron Way
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Re: Utility rate change

I received a notice from the City of Palo Alto with regard to the Utility rate change.
This is my formal written to protest against all the proposed rate change in both Wastewater and Water.

Thank you.

Trinhthi Tran
3721 Heron Way
Palo Alto, CA 94303
May 9, 2011

Palo Alto City Council
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, California 94301

Dear Council Members:

First, thank you for your service to our city.

Second, I wish to protest the proposed water and wastewater rate increases. Our utilities are operating at a profit, and last year's annual payment to the city was excessive. Public Utilities should not be operated with the same principles as for profit corporations.

Please, give us a break for once.

Sincerely,

Alma Silverthorn
To Whom it May Concern.

I am submitting this written protest against charges that will affect people like me with limited income. I am almost 62 years old woman who's living with a 92 years old mother.

I hate to protest this charge, but facing an unknown future with an income hardly enough to pay for any thing, and base on my situation every Penny counts. Sorry, and thank you.

Yours
Annif Otter

Parcel number: 127-70-01/4-00
3759 Klamate Lane, PA, CH9303
Utilities account 30006345
On June 13, 2011, the Palo Alto City Council will consider proposed changes to the City’s water, and wastewater collection services rates for the fiscal year that begins in July 2011. If approved, the revised rates will be effective starting July 1, 2011.

WASTEWATER

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Dear Sir:

I wish to protest the raise in utility rates for water and wastewater. My parcel no. is 137-15-011-00. My address is 3691 Laguna Ave. and my account is 30012534.

Thank you,

Sabina Descole
May 10, 2011

City Clerk
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

We hereby protest the proposed water and wastewater rate increases as announced in your notice of April 25, 2011.

Jo Ann Fahnestock
736 Layne Court
Palo Alto, CA 94306
6-1-2011
City of Palo Alto
City Council - City Clerk

Regarding residential
monthly increases of waste
water and water service
charges proposed.

I protest these unnecessary
charges. Please do not
make these increases.

Times are bad enough in
Cost of living increases
everywhere - Food - be
hard. Thirdly, meaning sick
Drums. Cuts in portions of
all MEC items. Yet cost increases
continue. No increase in
cost. S.S. So how can
anyone pay extra charges.

Mary Murphy
681 Foma Lane
Palo Alto, CA 94306

P.S. 9/30/1917
April 27, 2011

City Clerk
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

I am protesting both the residential water and wastewater increases.

Both increases are too much.

Sincerely,

Janell Sumida, Account #30031855
2704 Louis Rd.
Palo Alto, CA 94303-3650
RE: PROTEST AGAINST UTILITY RATE CHANGE

April 30, 2011

City Clerk
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Dear Madam/Sir:

This letter is to protest against the proposed increase in wastewater and water meter service charges for the 2011 fiscal year. We urge the City of Palo Alto Utility Department to investigate and implement cost-saving measures of operation instead of increasing customer utility charges.

Sincerely,

Tetyana Obukhanych
May 2, 2011

City Clerk
City of Palo Alto
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter to protest the proposal the city council considered about raising the 5/8 inch meter water, and $1 wastewater collection services rates for the fiscal year that begins in July 2011.

We have always conserve water the best we can and been doing our best in our daily life to protect the environment. When we first moved in to the city, we have chosen to pay a much higher (property) price to live in a solar powered community in the Vantage of Palo Alto. 13.2% increase in wastewater charge and 100% increase in monthly water service charge are not acceptable, even though it means less than $10 a month for our household of six.

Please reconsider your proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely:

Kok Hoong Chan & Pei Yee Lee
Account No.: 30021250
Service Address: 935 Mallard Lane, Palo Alto, CA 94303
On June 13, 2011, the Palo Alto City Council will consider proposed changes to the City’s water, and wastewater collection services rates for the fiscal year that begins in July 2011. If approved, the revised rates will be effective starting July 1, 2011.

WASTEWATER
Wastewater Utility rates are imposed in order that the City may recover its costs of transporting and treating wastewater. All revenue derived from the proposed rates and charges will be used exclusively for the recovery of costs associated with providing wastewater service and to fund the capital improvement program required in order to maintain and periodically replace aging wastewater infrastructure. The Wastewater Utility’s wastewater rates and charges are developed based on generally accepted cost of service principles. They are evaluated on an annual basis to determine if adequate revenues will be collected to pay for operations and maintenance costs and to provide funds for the capital improvement program. More information regarding the proposed wastewater rate changes can be found on the City’s website at www.cityofpaloalto.org/rateincrease

Proposed Wastewater Rate Increases:
The proposed wastewater rate structure for residential customers continues to have a monthly charge and no volumetric component. Rates for commercial customers continue to have a “volumetric” charge for each ccf of water consumed during the billing period, and a minimum monthly charge should the calculation for volumetric charges fall below that level. The qualifications for Large Dischargers have been modified placing customers formerly under that schedule on general applicable Commercial rates.

The following chart shows the current and proposed wastewater rate schedule components:

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WATER
Water Utility rates are imposed in order that the City may recover its costs of buying and distributing water. All revenue derived from the proposed rates and charges will be used exclusively for the recovery of costs associated with providing water service and to fund the capital improvement program required in order to maintain and periodically replace aging water infrastructure. The Water Utility’s water rates and charges are developed based on generally accepted cost of service principles. They are evaluated on an annual basis to determine if adequate revenues will be collected to pay for operations and maintenance costs and to provide funds for the capital improvement program. More information regarding the proposed water rate changes can be found on the City’s website at www.cityofpaloalto.org/rateincrease
May 17, 2011

City Clerk
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Re: Protest of Proposed Rate Increase - Water and Wastewater

Dear Council Members:

This letter is to lodge a formal protest of the proposed increase in water and wastewater rates beginning July 2011.

It is ludicrous to raise these, and other utility rates, at the same time that the city is using utility revenue transfers to pay for general fund expenditures. Figure out a way to reduce costs for the city and allow the residents of Palo Alto to benefit from a city-owned utility. If the utilities are simply being used as a funding source to pay city employees, the residents may as well simply get their utilities from PG&E and do away with the liabilities created by the extensive city work force.

We sincerely hope that the Council will deny the proposed rate hike at its June 13, 2010 meeting and instruct staff to present a plan to lower costs which will result in the utility revenue transfers being lowered and ultimately eliminated.

Respectfully,

Michael C. Gagliasso
Catherine E. Murphy

Michael C. Gagliasso
Catherine E. Murphy
April 28, 2011

City Clerk
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Re: Moreno Middlefield, LLC, 2605 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94306
City of Palo Alto Utilities Account No: 30002093

Dear City Clerk:

As managing agents for the ownership of Moreno Middlefield, LLC, whose address is referenced above, please accept this as our formal protest of the proposed water and sewer rate increases effective July 2011.

During this dramatic economic climate, our property has seen its businesses struggling because they could not produce enough income to meet their expenses. In this instance, the property’s water and sewer fees are reimbursed by each business owner and any increase in expenses will create undue financial hardship.

Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Cassidy Turley PMSF, Inc.
as Agent for Moreno Middlefield, LLC

Susan E. Causey, CPM, CSM
Vice President
Agent for Owner
DRE License #00784073
City Clerk, 6/3/2011

We protest against the proposed water and wastewater rate change since our current rates are higher than other cities in the Santa Clara County.

We are the owner of house located in 1095 Moreno Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94303 (APN: 127-02-042)
Utilities Act: # 30049914

Hong Xu
Geteng Liu
April 27, 2011

City Clerk
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94303

I am protesting both the residential water and wastewater increases.

Both increases are too much.

Sincerely,

Masao Sumida
1040 Newell Rd.
Palo Alto, CA 94303-2930
3073 Price Court  
Palo Alto, CA 94303  

City Clerk  
250 Hamilton Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94301  

Reference: Assessor's Parcel Number 127-52-010-00  

Gentlemen,  

The purpose of this letter is to protest the proposed Fiscal Year 2012 utility rate adjustment for both water and wastewater rates.  

Very truly yours,  

Arthur Koolpe  

Arthur Koolpe
City Council,

I protest the water & wastewater increase. Every year in June for the past several years the rates of utilities are raised. I am disabled & am on a fixed budget. It is a hardship for me to keep having my rates be raised each year. My parcel # is 12731-032-00. My address 2410 Ross Road Palo Alto, Calif 94303

My Palo Alto Utilities account # is 30037039

Laura A. Feriarte
May 1, 2011

Subject: Protest of water and wastewater rate adjustment

Address: 3021 Ross Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303

Dear City Clerk,

I am writing to officially protest the utility rate adjustments for wastewater and water.

Regards,

Seavan Sternheim

Homeowner: 3021 Ross Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303
To: City of Palo Alto
Re: Utility Rate Change

To Whom it may concern

I received your “Notice of Utility Rate Change” dated April 25, 2011 wherein it specified I may submit a written protest. The following is my protest.

I have always and will always believe that a person should take care of themselves and pay their own way through life. I have no complaint with paying my fair share if the City needs more funds to pay for the services I receive. That's only fair. What I strongly object to however is the same solution the Federal Government is using, asking middle class workers to bear the majority of the burden while giving special breaks to overprivileged people and big business.

A wastewater hookup in and of itself does not put any burden at all on a wastewater treatment plant. A burden is created only by actual waste that is sent to that plant. The more waste that is sent the larger the burden on the treatment plant. My modest single bathroom home sends down an extremely small amount of waste. A vast majority of that comes from the shower and kitchen sink, both of which need little or no treatment at all. That leaves a single toilet as my very modest burden on the wastewater treatment plant. Basic rates for Residential, Restaurants and Commercial customers have all been increased the same amount and that's fair. The burden placed on the wastewater treatment plant by Restaurants and Commercial customers however can be, and usually is, enormously larger than what my home could possibly create so there is a tiered rate schedule for those customers. Those rates are going down and that is the opposite of fair. The waste from Restaurants and Commercial customers is the source of the vast majority of the burden on a treatment plant and yet they get a reduced rate? How do you justify that? (That's a rhetorical question, of course you cannot justify it.)

I have the same issue with the water rates. I do not even water the lawns now to conserve water and I see my rates will decrease 8.8% for the first 6 Hundred Cubic Feet but then for the next two rate tiers they go up 8.1 and 35.8%!!!! respectively whereas Commercial rates go down 9.3% for 14 Hundred Cubic Feet and do not increase at all above that. Again that is the opposite of fair. Again the vast majority of the burden on the water system/supply is coming from the Commercial sector and yet they get a bigger break. If I for example were to use 50ccf of water it would cost $321.88 but a Commercial customer would only pay $178.42 for the same amount of water. In fact they could use 66.27ccf of water and still pay less than I would. Another way to describe their savings is they could get 1,627 Cubic Feet = 12,170.8 gallons of water for free. Well, free to them, not free for me, I and other middle class homeowners will be paying for their savings.

As I previously stated I am more than willing to cover my fair share but I urge you to require the same sacrifices from everyone, not put most of the burden on those who can afford it the least.

Thank you,
John Naber

[Signature]
To Mayor Espinosa and City Council Members:

Please vote NO on water and wastewater rate increases.

In your discussion re the proposed water and wastewater rate increase, I hope that you will consider the numerous senior residents of Palo Alto living on fixed incomes for whom these rate increases would constitute a significant hardship. I am an 87-year-old widow on a fixed and limited income, supporting an unemployed son (2+ years) in addition to myself. As you know, there have been no cost of living increases in Social Security payments for the past 2 years and no prospect of increases in the foreseeable future. I am hoping to remain in my home for the rest of my life; that will not be possible if my living expenses exceed my income.

In conclusion, I sincerely hope that you will give serious consideration to the effect these proposed rate increases will have in the lives of the elderly and other low-income residents of Palo Alto.

Sincerely,

Evelyn B. Carlson
3827 Ross Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303
I protest against all of the proposed charges for water and wastewater.
May 3, 2011

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Notice of Proposed increases to water charges: public hearing June 13, 2011

Palo Alto Utilities account number: 30031160 – for Sanjay Patel

In response to your notice of utility rate changes letter dated 4/25, I duly submit this written protest to confirm my opposition to the proposed increases to the following specific charges:

1. Wastewater rates increases for S1 – Residential customers
2. Monthly water service charges for customers with 5/8” meter size [I wish my salary would increase by 100% in one fell swoop]

Can there be any justification for ripping off the proletariat? The city had its chance to put away plenty of money for the rainy-day piggy-bank during the heyday of dotcom and housing bubble – instead there appears to have been wanton profligacy without due consideration to potential future hardships.

_Shame_ on the city for mismanagement of available funds during the “good times”.

A disgruntled, and fed-up with being nickel-and-dimed taxpayer,

Sanjay Patel
Honorable City Council
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto CA 94301

Dear Mayor Espinosa & Colleagues,

The resident owners of Waverley Park Condominiums respectfully protest proposed new wastewater and water rate schedules. It is high time the council resolved the unfair and inconsistent rates imposed on our type of multi-unit residential dwelling.

Our building contains ten (10) households with Assessor's Parcel Numbers 120-13-001 through 120-13-010. Our separate street addresses run from 258 to 296 Waverley Street. Our CPAU Account Number is 30015914.

Please note this key fact: over 12 months we average 4.2 ccf of water usage (even less wastewater due to evaporation from pool) per household per month.

Our wastewater is classified as S1 Residential. We pay ten times (10X) the monthly rate of $24.65, or $246.50/month. We face a 13.2% increase to $279.10. Please note S2 Commercial customers are about to enjoy a decrease of 6.3% to only $4.75/ccb. If we were classified Commercial, - AS WE ARE FOR OUR WATER USAGE - our monthly cost would be $159.50 (42x4.75). That would save us $120/month.

Our water is classified as W4 Commercial. We pay $4.946/ccb. W1 Residential customers using 0-6 ccf will pay $3.60/ccb. We ARE residential customers each one of whom uses 0-6 ccf/month. If we were classified Residential, our monthly cost would average $151 (42x3.60). That would save us $57/month vs. present average $208.

Under the status quo, we have the worst of both possible worlds. CPAU is, and has always, extracted the maximum income from small multi-unit residences such as ours.

Please decide once and for all if we are commercial or residential. If we MUST be some of each, then for mercy's sake let us be commercial for wastewater and residential for water!

Respectfully yours,

Joseph L. Baldwin
President, Waverley Park Condominiums
June 1, 2011

Palo Alto City Council
10 City Hall
250 Hamilton Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Gentlemen

In regard to a raise in the water rates we strongly protest. Our very very high utility bills are more than adequate to cover wastewater service and infrastructure costs. All that is needed is to give less to the general fund.

Please consider this as three (3) separate protests.

Christopher & Josephine Arnold

Parcel # 180-20-024 (248 Waverley)
Parcel # 003-01-050 (357 Fulton Ave)
Parcel # 003-01-042 (770 Everett Ave).
614 Wellsbury Way  
Palo Alto, CA  94306  
May 22, 2011

City Clerk  
250 Hamilton Ave  
Palo Alto, CA  94301

Dear Sir,

We're responding to the "Notice of Utility Rate Change". We object to the utility rate adjustment increases to both the water and waste water rates. We are against all of the proposed charges.

Our assessor's parcel number is, 132-56-019-00 and our utility account number is 300 22364.

Your truly,

Marjorie and David Masters
To Whom It May Concern-

I am a resident of Palo Alto and I received the Notice Of Utility Rate Change in the mail. I am writing to oppose the proposal to raise wastewater. Not only do I believe the current charge of $24.65 is ridiculous for all residents to pay regardless of waste volume and/or number of residents, I absolutely don't agree with the proposed rate change to $27.91. I am a single person who is rarely at my apartment, and when I am there, my wastewater is minimal; and in my opinion I should not be charged the same as a residence with multiple inhabitants in the first place let alone increase the current rate.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nicole Ventre

461 Wilton Ave.

Palo Alto, CA
TO: City of Palo Alto

FROM: Frank Kwong & Caly Chiu

RE: Written Protest AGAINST all of the proposed charges on water, wastewater and refuse.

DATE: 5/2/2011

WRITTEN PROTEST AGAINST ALL OF THE PROPOSED CHARGES (WATER AND REFUSE).

Assessor’s Parcel Number: 086-18-003-00

Property address: 837 Wintergreen Way Palo Alto, CA 94303

City of Palo Alto Account Number: 119973-30315

We protest the rate increase on both water and refuse.

Thank you.

Signed:

[Signature]
Frank Kwong

[Signature]
Caly Chiu
AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Public Hearing - Proposition 218 Hearing for Water and Wastewater Rate Changes for Fiscal Year 2012

PROTEST LETTERS FOR WATER
May 2, 2011

City Clerk
City of Palo Alto
250 Hamilton Ave
Palo Alto, CA 94301

RE: Objection to Proposed Utility Rate Increases

Gentlemen,

I am writing this letter to object to the increase in the utility rates. This increase would adversely affect most, those with the lowest earnings and the retired and elderly.

Very truly yours,

Robert K. Stitt
Pau Acct. #: 132153-42677
NOTICE OF UTILITY RATE CHANGE

April 25, 2011

MILLICIENT CRAIG
880 AMES CT
PALO ALTO, CA 94303

On June 13, 2011, the Palo Alto City Council will consider proposed changes to the City’s water, and wastewater collection services rates for the fiscal year that begins in July 2011. If approved, the revised rates will be effective starting July 1, 2011.

WASTEWATER
Wastewater Utility rates are imposed in order that the City may recover its costs of transporting and treating wastewater. All revenue derived from the proposed rates and charges will be used exclusively for the recovery of costs associated with providing wastewater service and to fund the capital improvement program required in order to maintain and periodically replace aging wastewater infrastructure. The Wastewater Utility’s wastewater rates and charges are developed based on generally accepted cost of service principles. They are evaluated on an annual basis to determine if adequate revenues will be collected to pay for operations and maintenance costs and to provide funds for the capital improvement program. More information regarding the proposed wastewater rate changes can be found on the City’s website at www.cityofpaloalto.org/rateincrease

Proposed Wastewater Rate Increases:
The proposed wastewater rate structure for residential customers continues to have a monthly charge and no volumetric component. Rates for commercial customers continue to have a “volumetric” charge for each ccf of water consumed during the billing period, and a minimum monthly charge should the calculation for volumetric charges fall below that level. The qualifications for Large Dischargers have been modified placing customers formerly under that schedule on general applicable Commercial rates.

The following chart shows the current and proposed wastewater rate schedule components:

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WATER
Water Utility rates are imposed in order that the City may recover its costs of buying and distributing water. All revenue derived from the proposed rates and charges will be used exclusively for the recovery of costs associated with providing water service and to fund the capital improvement program required in order to maintain and periodically replace aging water infrastructure. The Water Utility’s water rates and charges are developed based on generally accepted cost of service principles. They are evaluated on an annual basis to determine if adequate revenues will be collected to pay for operations and maintenance costs and to provide funds for the capital improvement program. More information regarding the proposed water rate changes can be found on the City’s website at: www.cityofpaloalto.org/rateincrease
May 5, 2011

City of Palo Alto
City Clerk
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

967 Oregon Expressway, Palo Alto, CA

To Whom It May Concern:

We protest the potable water increases as proposed as excessive and adding charges in excess of inflation.

- Your own letter states that a component of the increases is for the increased wholesale third party rates.
- The City needs to demand that the wholesale water districts and the State of California start efforts to increase water supplies.
- The City needs to demand of the State and Federal governments that ill-advised court rulings to stop pumping and delivering water to users to protect the non-native delta smelt, need to be overturned by whatever means necessary.

We protest the Storms Sewer increases as proposed as excessive and adding charges in excess of inflation:

- Your own letter states that a component of the increases are for regulatory compliance.
- The City needs to resist and demand that the regulatory agencies justify their regulations on a cost benefit basis.
- Developers have told you time and time again that the cost of the storm water regulations is exorbitant and ineffective yet the City takes no action.
- Developers have told you time and time again that the storm water regulation compliance costs should be, instead of being required on site, be instead, collected and used to fund regional facilities, steam bed restoration and clean up, regional detention.
- The public and private cost of designing, approving and administering the storm water regulation compliance costs on thousands of individual projects is largely wasted versus using the same expenditures on one or several regional projects.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Myron Crawford
Email: mcrawford@missionwest.com
Ph. 408-725-7633

10050 Bandley Drive, Cupertino, CA 95014 – Tel: 408-725-0700 – Fax: 408-725-1626
City of P.A.

Re: Proposed Water and Wastewater

Please be informed that I protest any increase in water and wastewater rates

Kathy Tullus
2450 W. Bayshore #1
Palo Alto, CA 94303
Account # 3000 8162
To City of Palo Alto Utilities

Re: Protest rate changes for Water and Wastewater

From: Huangpin Hsieh

3290 Berryessa St., Palo Alto, CA 94303

I protest the wastewater rate change because the rate or the proposed changes does not have an element to encourage conservation such as the incremental rates for water. It appears the residential wastewater rate is increased to subsidize the decrease for commercial or restaurant uses. I propose the wastewater rates to be adjusted to reflect the water usage—after all, water after use becomes wastewater to be treated.

I also protest the water rate adjustment because it reduces the discrimination against heavy usage that could discourage conservation. Although the volumetric per ccf is reduced for first 6 ccf, the service charge increase significantly out pace it. I would suggest not change the service fee but raise the volumetric fee on high volume usage even more to encourage conservation, unless the goal of the change does not include encouraging conservation?

Best Regards,

Huangpin Hsieh
May 19, 2011

City Clerk
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Account # 30000299

We strongly oppose the proposed increases of the volumetric rates and the monthly water service rates. We are retirees with strictly limited income and already have difficulties meeting our obligations each month.

Sincerely,

Erik Lindblad

Erik Lindblad
City Clerk
250 Hamilton Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94301

RE: Protest to Projected Rise in City Water Rates & Wastewater Collection Services to be considered on June 13, 2011

ATTENTION: Palo Alto City Council

As a resident of Palo Alto, I strongly object to a rise in present rates to be considered on June 13, 2011.

I recall that in 2010 the garbage disposal rates were increased.

I recall also the breach of contract with Enron Corp. which the City of Palo made with Enron. The result of a suit by Enron amounted to millions of dollars in damages the City had to pay for its breach of contract.

The City Council should realize that in Palo Alto while there are many well-to-do residents, many in our city are struggling to survive in a time of great economic depression.

Unfortunately, many property owners in Palo Alto are afflicted with an oppressive bureaucracy with too many rules, regulations, which serve to control its citizens rather than to serve them.

This letter is meant to OBJECT to any further rise in utility rates.

The undersigned resident is a property owner at the address given above and with a utility contract number of 300221721.

This objection is timely given prior to the hearing on this matter set for June 13, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond V. Dunn
Palo Alto Resident and property owner
Himanshu Dwivedi
2410 Bryant Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to protest the proposed Wastewater and water rate increases. I live at 2410 Bryant Street; Palo Alto, CA.

Thanks,

Himanshu Dwivedi
City of Palo Alto
Palo Alto, CA 94301
Attn: City Clerk

Subject: Objection to Water Rate Increase/2011

To Whom it May Concern:

This is to certify you of my objection/protest to a rate increase for:

1) Water Commodity
2) Waste Water Service

My address is:
3687 Bryant St.
Palo Alto, CA 94306
Account #: 300 16 397

Wayne E. March
05.05.11
Dear City Council, Mayor, Clerk & Utility Department,

I am writing to express my protest of rate increases to residential property both in water and wastewater. I do not think this increase is warranted. The size of the wastewater increase at over 13% is just unbelievable. In terms of general water usage, most homeowners would see between 8-35% increases. These are just too much for Palo Alto households to endure. I think money charged for utilities should be used for that and not passed over to other city budget lines that are coming up short.

These rate increases are not necessary and I do protest.
City of PA: 4/30/11

I am writing to protest the utility rate adjustment for water and/or wastewater.

Enough is enough, my hours have been cut back severely at work... and all prices seem to keep going up, while my pay check keeps going down.

Stacey
Staiken-Hunter
738 E. Charleston Rd
Palo Alto, CA 94303
Dear City Council:

This is a protest against the proposed utility rate changes as apply to the parcel of address 763 E. Charleston Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94303-4706.

I protest the proposed increase in the monthly wastewater rate.

I protest the proposed increase in the monthly water service charge.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Fischer
May 9, 2011

City Clerk
City of Palo Alto
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Re: Protest of proposed utility rates for 2011
Attn City Clerk and City Council;

This letter is written to protest the proposed increases in water rates and waste water rates. The city currently extracts millions of dollars from the sizable profits made by the utility department, including, if I understand this correctly, profits from the water utility. The city management and the Council have demonstrated over the years, that the utility department profits are used to balance the city’s General Fund. While a certain amount of this transfer of profits may be justified, the ever increasing amounts are not in my opinion, especially when the Council continues to spend funds for special interest groups like the children’s theater and zoo, while we are faced with years of annual deficits. Giving the Council more money only prolongs the inevitable when the Council and the managers must bring spending to the level the city can afford and stops spending money on unneeded consultants and such.

In addition, it is my understanding, AND I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE CORRECT INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT IF I AM WRONG, that it is against state law to use water utility profits for any purpose other than for the water utility needs. If the city is transferring water profits along with gas and electric profits, then the law is being violated and this practice must stop. All the more reason why the water rates should not be increased.

That the city owns the utility department is supposed to be reason for our rates to be lower than PG&E. They are not. The city should be making efforts to accomplish this once promised benefit.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Placone
City Clerk
City of Palo Alto
250 Hamilton Ave
Palo Alto Ca 94301

City Clerk, Please note that I am protesting the proposed Water and Wastewater rate adjustments that were outline in the Notice of Utility Rate Change dated April 25, 2011 and mailed to my home.

Regards,

Gary Holl
200 Colorado Ave
Palo Alto, Ca 94301
May 23, 2011

City Clerk of Palo Alto
250 Hamilton Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Re: Written Protests to Proposed Wastewater Rate Increases and Proposed Water Rate Increases

Dear City Clerk:

I proposed wastewater and water rate increases are highly discriminatory in favor of Commercial and Restaurant customers and against Residential customers as shown.

Wastewater
On S1-Residential and S2-Commercial & Restaurant you are hiking the rates by 13.2%, while on S2-Commercial and S2- Restaurant you propose to lower those rates by 6.3% and 10.5% respectively. Why should Residential rates be raised significantly while at the same time the Commercial and Restaurant rates are being lowered? The swing is almost 20% in favor of S2-Commercial and almost 24% in favor of S2-Restaurant. If rates are going to be raised, shouldn’t all entities, whether Commercial, Restaurant and Residential all bear the increases? Instead the home owners are being severely punished in favor of the Commercial and Restaurant interests.

Water
Volumetric Charges
Here you propose to lower the rates for W4-Commercial by almost 10%. You throw a bone to those using 6ccf or less residentially, which seems hard to do if you have any landscaping at all but increase W1-Residential by over 8% between 7-29 ccf and a whopping 35.8% increase to $7.64 per ccf for those using over 29 ccf. Anyone owning a residence with a lot of more than 8,000 sq. ft. is paying outrageous amounts to water their landscaping, while W4-Commercial can use any amount of water they wish at the fixed rate of $4.946 per ccf. The break points seem totally arbitrary and unfavorable to Residential customers.

Water Service Charges
Residences and Commercial with meters between 5/8 inch and 2 inch have their service raised anywhere from 100% to 120%, while Commercial with meters between 3 inches and 10 inches have their rates raised on average only about 60%.

Commercial and Restaurant customers should bear their fair share of any rate increases, as opposed to receiving decreases at the expense of Residential customers. As with federal and state representatives, our local officials are elected to serve the most citizens, not to cater to the special interests.

Sincerely,

Irving S. and Lesley Rappaport
PROTESTING RATE INCREASES

I do not agree the proposed rate increase for water and waste water that will be effective June 2, 2011.

Property owner name: ManKie Ng

Property address: 4250 El Camino Real #A303. Palo Alto, Ca

Parcel # 167-55-080-00

ManKie Ng

5/3/2011
Date: June 7, 2011

To: City of Palo Alto
   City Clerk
   250 Hamilton Ave.
   Palo Alto, CA 94301

From: Lily Ng
       1015 Embarcadero Rd.
       Palo Alto, CA 94303

Re: I’m writing to protest against the water and wastewater utility rate adjustment.

Lily Ng
May 3, 2011

City Clerk
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Dear City Clerk:

Your notice of water/wastewater rate increases arrived last week. We have some significant concerns, based on the information provided.

Wastewater: It appears from the chart that S1-Residential and S2-Commercial & Restaurant pay the same rates for wastewater services, and that a 13.2% rate increase is proposed. I do not think that it is fair that commercial and restaurants pay the same as residential for two reasons:

1) A large portion of residential water does not go back into the wastewater treatment system, but in fact is absorbed into the ground. Most homes use a lot of water on landscaping, where is it most unusual that restaurants and businesses have extensive landscaping.
2) Commercial & restaurants use more water that goes directly into the wastewater treatment system than residences.

For these reasons, I think that residential rates should be less for wastewater treatment.

Water: I think that increasing the base charge per month hurts individuals who are conserving water. Water rates should be based on the amount used, not for the fact that one has water in a home or business. I see no justification for raising the base service charge. If Palo Alto really wants people to conserve water, then raise the rate for the amount used.

If you need further thoughts or clarification, please contact us at the address below.

Sincerely,

Steve and Nancy Suddjian

703 Ensign Way
Palo Alto, CA 94303
June 1, 2011

Palo Alto City Council
To City Clerk
250 Hamilton Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Gentlemen,

In regard to a raise in the water rates we strongly protest. Our very very high utility bills are more than adequate to cover wastewater service and infrastructure costs. All that is needed is to give less to the general fund!

Please consider this as three (3) separate protests.

Christopher + Josephine Arnold

Parcel # 180-20-024 (1248 Waverley)
Parcel # 003-01-050 (357 Fulton Ave)
Parcel # 003-01-0112 (1700 Everett Ave)
Protest against Palo Alto Utility Rate Change

Current street address: 476 Fernando Ave. Palo Alto CA 94306

Protesting: Water and Wastewater rate change.

Reason: Palo Alto already has the highest water rate and waste water rate in bay area. I used to live in San Jose, the water rate there for the total monthly usage from 0 to 13 CCF is $2.5157.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water rate for residential</th>
<th>San Jose</th>
<th>$2.5157</th>
<th>0-13 ccf</th>
<th>$2.7663</th>
<th>over 13 ccf</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palo Alto</td>
<td>$3.949</td>
<td>0-7 ccf</td>
<td>$5.624</td>
<td>over 7 ccf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewer Rate</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Jose</td>
<td>$19.40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palo Alto</td>
<td>$24.65</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please see the attached rate comparison chart. The problem with Palo Alto is that we have a distributor: Palo Alto Utility Company. If city buys water directly from the water company, you can avoid the unnecessary expense for hiring a utility management company. They contracted out garbage service already, why we need to keep these staffing? San Jose does not have a centralized utility company, I used to get separate bills from water company, PG&E and Waste Recycle company.

We might end up with three bills from different utility vendors, but if this will dramatically reduce the transition cost, I do not mind paying three bills instead of one.

Sibing Wei
June 1, 2011

Palo Alto City Council
To City Clerk
250 Hamilton Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Gentlemen

In regard to a raise in the water rates, we strongly protest. Our utility bills are more than adequate to cover wastewater service and infrastructure costs. All that is needed is to give low to the general fund.

Please consider this as three (3) separate protests.

Christopher & Josephine Arnold

Parcel # 120-20-024 (248 Waverley)
Parcel # 003-01-050 (357 Fulton Ave)
Parcel # 003-01-042 (770 Everett Ave).
On June 13, 2011, the Palo Alto City Council will consider proposed changes to the City’s water, and wastewater collection services rates for the fiscal year that begins in July 2011. If approved, the revised rates will be effective starting July 1, 2011.

**WASTEWATER**

Wastewater Utility rates are imposed in order that the City may recover its costs of transporting and treating wastewater. All revenue derived from the proposed rates and charges will be used exclusively for the recovery of costs associated with providing wastewater service and to fund the capital improvement program required in order to maintain and periodically replace aging wastewater infrastructure. The Wastewater Utility’s wastewater rates and charges are developed based on generally accepted cost of service principles. They are evaluated on an annual basis to determine if adequate revenues will be collected to pay for operations and maintenance costs and to provide funds for the capital improvement program. More information regarding the proposed wastewater rate changes can be found on the City’s website at www.cityofpaloalto.org/rateincrease.

**Proposed Wastewater Rate Increases:**

The proposed wastewater rate structure for residential customers continues to have a monthly charge and no volumetric component. Rates for commercial customers continue to have a “volumetric” charge for each ccf of water consumed during the billing period, and a minimum monthly charge should the calculation for volumetric charges fall below that level. The qualifications for Large Dischargers have been modified placing customers formerly under that schedule on general applicable Commercial rates.

The following chart shows the current and proposed wastewater rate schedule components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate Schedule</th>
<th>Charge Basis</th>
<th>Current Rates</th>
<th>Proposed Rates</th>
<th>Change ($ )</th>
<th>Change (%)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S1 - Residential</td>
<td>Monthly Charge</td>
<td>$24.65</td>
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**WATER**

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April 27, 2011

City Clerk
City of Palo Alto
250 Hamilton Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Dear City Clerk:

In accordance with the Utility Rate Change dated April 25, 2011, we wish to protest the massive rate increase for water service. This is not an incremental increase, but a very significant increase. Those of us on fixed incomes are limited in the amount we can pay.

Sincerely,

Karen and Steve Ross
1770 Fulton St.
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Account No. 30025629
Dear Ms. Grider,

I write to protest the increase in rates of the water service and the wastewater service.

I protest the proposed increase in water rate IT IS UNJUSTIFIED.

I protest the proposed increase in wastewater rate IT IS UNJUSTIFIED.

I most strongly object to inappropriately increasing utility costs to rate payers in order to make a profit center operation of the utility department.

Sincerely,

RICHARD A. RUNKEL
741 GARLAND DRIVE
PALO ALTO, CA 94303
650 327 7589

Richard A Runkel
To City Council:

I strongly object to any increase in water rates.

I urge you to turn down any such proposal.

Harry Anisgard
2823 Green Rd
94303 650/556/918
hanisgard@ sbcglobal.net

Proud Member Since:
February 1999
Written Protest
Hi, City of Palo Alto,

I'm writing to protest both water and waste water rates increases. My address is

2360 Harvard Street
Palo Alto, CA 94306
APN# 137-05-084

Please do NOT increase the rates!

Sincerely,

[Signature]
(Walter Lee)
To Whom It May Concern

I am 73 years old and single. I have lived in Palo Alto forty years and brought my three children up in Palo Alto.

I am writing regarding the rate in water rates. The utilities in this town are off the wall and to raise the water rates again is not fair to people like me with very limited income. I feel very worried as to how long I can afford to live in Palo Alto because of all the utilities and now the water.

Susan Cow
Heald Ave.
P.A.

MAY 16 2011

11:16 PM 1:00
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
CITY OF PALO ALTO, CA
May 12, 2011

Palo Alto Water Department
c/o Public Utilities Department
P.O. Box 10250
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Gentlepersons:

Please do not raise our water rates. We are both retired and are living on a fixed income. We are conserving our water usage, so why punish us by raising our rates?

Yes, we know that other costs are rising; we see that in our everyday food and gasoline prices. But has anyone been looking at where there can be savings in the operating costs of the department? Please reconsider the rate increases.

Thank You.

Yours truly,

Ruth H. Foley

169 Hemlock Court
Palo Alto 94306-4623

MAY 16 2011
May 23, 2011, 2011

Account No: 30037474

3721 Heron Way

Palo Alto, CA 94303

Re: Utility rate change

I received a notice from the City of Palo Alto with regard to the Utility rate change.

This is my formal written to protest against all the proposed rate change in both Wastewater and Water.

Thank you.

Trinhthi Tran

3721 Heron Way

Palo Alto, CA 94303
May 9, 2011

Palo Alto City Council
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, California 94301

Dear Council Members:

First, thank you for your service to our city.

Second, I wish to protest the proposed water and wastewater rate increases. Our utilities are operating at a profit, and last year's annual payment to the city was excessive. Public Utilities should not be operated with the same principles as for profit corporations.

Please, give us a break for once.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Alma Silverthorn
SUBJECT: WATER RATE INCREASE PROTESTATION.

Location: 4194 King Arthur Ct. Palo Alto CA 94306
Parcel Number 137-27-017-09
Utility Account Number 30021657

The proposed water rate increase is yet another indication of the total lack of competent financial management in Palo Alto government.

We are requested to save water and then we are told that since we did a good job in conserving water that we now must pay more.

Anyone can postpone truly solving fiscal problems by raising taxes and fees and spending money we don’t have. It takes a real manager to solve problems with the means at hand. How about showing real leadership and demonstrating how we can live within our means. Unfortunately many of us who are retired do not have the luxury of just telling government to give us more money because we saved water.

Very truly yours

John A. Martin
On June 13, 2011, the Palo Alto City Council will consider proposed changes to the City’s water, and wastewater collection services rates for the fiscal year that begins in July 2011. If approved, the revised rates will be effective starting July 1, 2011.

WASTEWATER
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The proposed wastewater rate structure for residential customers continues to have a monthly charge and no volumetric component. Rates for commercial customers continue to have a “volumetric” charge for each ccf of water consumed during the billing period, and a minimum monthly charge should the calculation for volumetric charges fall below that level. The qualifications for Large Dischargers have been modified placing customers formerly under that schedule on general applicable Commercial rates.

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To whom it may concern.

I am submitting this written protest against charges that will affect people like me with limited income. I am almost 69 years old woman who is living with a 92 years old mother.

I hate to protest this change, but facing an unknown future with an income hardly enough to pay for any thing, every penny counts. Sorry, and thank you.

Yours,

Azmar Potter

Parcel number: 127-70-0/4-00
3759 Klamath Lane, PA, CA 94303
Utilities account 30006345
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City Clerk
255 Hamilton Ave.
Palo Alto, Ca. 94301

11 MAY 16 AM 11:05

Dear Sir:

I wish to protest the raise in utility rates for water and wastewater. My parcel no. is 137-15-01-00. My address is 3691 Laguna Ave. and my account is 30012534.

Thank you.

Sabra Driscoll
May 10, 2011

City Clerk
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

We hereby protest the proposed water and wastewater rate increases as announced in your notice of April 25, 2011.

Jo Ann Fahnestock
736 Layne Court
Palo Alto, CA 94306
0-1-2011
City of Palo Alto
City Council - City Clerk

Regarding residential monthly increases of waste water and water services charges proposed.
I protest these unnecessary charges. Please do not make these increases.
Times are hard enough in these of living increases everywhere - Food - etc. Med.- Dental- Hearing aids. Drugs. Cuts in portions of all need items. Yet cost increases continues. No increase in Cal. S.S. How can anyone pay extras charges.
Mary Murphy
681 Soma Verde
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Bd. 9/30/1977
April 27, 2011

City Clerk  
250 Hamilton Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA  94301

I am protesting both the residential water and wastewater increases.

Both increases are too much.

Sincerely,

Janell Sumida, Account #30031855  
2704 Louis Rd.  
Palo Alto, CA  94303-3650
RE: PROTEST AGAINST UTILITY RATE CHANGE

April 30, 2011

City Clerk
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Dear Madam/Sir:

This letter is to protest against the proposed increase in wastewater and water meter service charges for the 2011 fiscal year. We urge the City of Palo Alto Utility Department to investigate and implement cost-saving measures of operation instead of increasing customer utility charges.

Sincerely,

Tetyana Obukhanych
May 2, 2011

City Clerk
City of Palo Alto
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter to protest the proposal the city council considered about raising the 5/8 inch meter water, and $1 wastewater collection services rates for the fiscal year that begins in July 2011.

We have always conserve water the best we can and been doing our best in our daily life to protect the environment. When we first moved in to the city, we have chosen to pay a much higher (property) price to live in a solar powered community in the Vantage of Palo Alto. 13.2% increase in wastewater charge and 100% increase in monthly water service charge are not acceptable, even though it means less than $10 a month for our household of six.

Please reconsider your proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely:

[Signature]

Kok Hoong Chan & Pei Yee Lee
Account No.: 30021250
Service Address: 935 Mallard Lane, Palo Alto, CA 94303
After reviewing the data supporting your proposed water increase, I am extremely disappointed for the following two reasons:

The data as presented are insufficient to make any judgment on the proposal. The premise is that the increase is primarily due to the cost of purchased water. Yet, nowhere do you show the actual increase for the purchased water or any data comparing 2011 and 2012. The only data shown is a pie chart by expense element for 2011. I don’t understand why you didn’t show detailed cost data by expense element for 2011 and proposed for 2012. Had you shown this, we could see how much each element is projected to change/grow and what amount and percent of the growth is for purchased water versus all other cost elements. Additionally, you state that the purchased water costs are expected to double in 5 years – you should provide a 5 year projection if you have these costs.

Interestingly, for 2011 the non purchased water/capital improvements account for 52% of spending. You do not address what actions you have taken to reduce the other 48% of the spending. For example, since debt service is 9%, have you attempted to refinance at lower rates to reduce expenses? Also, do you have the same labor cost/pension problems in almost every other area of the public sector? If so, what is your action plan to reduce these expenses?

Overall, this analysis is woefully inadequate and gets a no vote from me until these questions are satisfactorily answered.

While I have no problem in concept with expanding the number of volume levels from 2 to 3 to charge residential users more if they use a lot more, I find this proposal grossly unfair if you don’t provide relief for property owners like myself who have large lots (mine is almost an acre with mature planting). While 29 ccf seems to be very reasonable for run rate usage with non or minimal irrigation usage, it is very inadequate during the peak watering billing season from July to October. Without any upward seasonal adjustment to cover the higher water needs for irrigation during this peak period the proposed rate change is extremely discriminatory to owners of larger lots like myself. I would not vote for this proposal unless there is a “peak usage” adjustment. Since your data show that irrigation accounts for 40% of total water usage, there is no way I could be below 29ccf during peak irrigation periods and maintain any reasonable level of planting.

Overall, I vote no unless more cost data is presented to justify your proposed increases and a fair treatment for owners of larger lots is made.
Subject: Utility Rate Change to be considered by the City Council on June 13, 2011.

Dear City Clerk,

I strongly protest against the proposed Water Rate increases that the City Council will consider on June 13, 2011.

This increase is discriminatory and unfair to property owners that have developed landscape and pools, especially where properties, by zoning, have lots that are at least 0.5 acres; hence larger than the properties in the majority of zones in the City of Palo Alto. The proposed water rate change results in an outrageous average 25% increase during the months of May through October, which is primarily due to landscape and pool needs. This can be clearly seen in the table below where the proposed changes to the period of May 2010 to May 2011 were applied to my property APN 175-02-041, City of Palo Alto Utilities account No. 30006818.

Table – Current cost of water and under new proposed rates for the period of May 2010 to May 2011.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Service days</th>
<th>ccf</th>
<th>Total $/month</th>
<th>Total $/Month</th>
<th>Change (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May-10</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>338.70</td>
<td>20.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-10</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>575.53</td>
<td>26.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul-10</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>743.61</td>
<td>28.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug-10</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>483</td>
<td>613.73</td>
<td>27.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep-10</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>674.85</td>
<td>27.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct-10</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>384.54</td>
<td>22.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov-10</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>264.79</td>
<td>22.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec-10</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>76.32</td>
<td>5.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan-11</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>58.08</td>
<td>4.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb-11</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>173.59</td>
<td>6.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar-11</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>112.80</td>
<td>6.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr-11</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>143.19</td>
<td>6.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May-11</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>346.36</td>
<td>20.96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Water preservation is important. But there are many other ways to preserve it than to increase consumption rates. Incentives should be given for installation of smart landscape watering systems such as the ones manufactured by HydroPoint Data Systems, or at least ones that can be programmed to take into account rainy days, allow water absorption by the ground instead of street run off by intermittent irrigation, etc. In house water consumption should also be incentivized for installation of devices that reduce the water flow, such as toilets with dual volume actuators, etc. In new residential construction, it should be required to use recirculation and insulated hot water supply. This will eliminate wasted water while waiting for hot water to come out of a faucet, etc.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Jain Nulman
4256 Manuela Ct
Palo Alto, CA 94306
To Whom it May Concern:

All proposals for water rates increases should be placed on hold until the overall state of the economy improves. Many of us are retired or soon to retire and do not need any increases in anything. Many of us senior citizens have been living in the City of Palo Alto for thirty to forty years and recall clearly when the cost of living was reasonable.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Pamela Noble
The City must receive your protests should indicate which information identifying your minimum, your street address, that are subject to the proposed rate adjustment(s). Protests are limited to one per parcel. Mail or deliver written protests to: City Clerk, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California 94301.

If written protests are filed by a majority of the affected customers, the applicable proposed rate increases will not be imposed. For assistance in determining the cost of the proposed rate adjustments to you, please call the City of Palo Alto Customer Contact Center at 650-329-2161.
On June 13, 2011, the Palo Alto City Council will consider proposed changes to the City’s water, and wastewater collection services rates for the fiscal year that begins in July 2011. If approved, the revised rates will be effective starting July 1, 2011.

WASTEWATER
Wastewater Utility rates are imposed in order that the City may recover its costs of transporting and treating wastewater. All revenue derived from the proposed rates and charges will be used exclusively for the recovery of costs associated with providing wastewater service and to fund the capital improvement program required in order to maintain and periodically replace aging wastewater infrastructure. The Wastewater Utility’s wastewater rates and charges are developed based on generally accepted cost of service principles. They are evaluated on an annual basis to determine if adequate revenues will be collected to pay for operations and maintenance costs and to provide funds for the capital improvement program. More information regarding the proposed wastewater rate changes can be found on the City’s website at www.cityofpaloalto.org/rateincrease

Proposed Wastewater Rate Increases:
The proposed wastewater rate structure for residential customers continues to have a monthly charge and no volumetric component. Rates for commercial customers continue to have a “volumetric” charge for each ccf of water consumed during the billing period, and a minimum monthly charge should the calculation for volumetric charges fall below that level. The qualifications for Large Dischargers have been modified placing customers formerly under that schedule on general applicable Commercial rates.

The following chart shows the current and proposed wastewater rate schedule components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate Schedule</th>
<th>Charge Basis</th>
<th>Current Rates</th>
<th>Proposed Rates</th>
<th>Change ($)</th>
<th>Change (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S1 - Residential</td>
<td>Monthly Charge</td>
<td>$24.65</td>
<td>$27.91</td>
<td>$3.26</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S2 - Commercial &amp; Restaurant</td>
<td>Monthly Minimum</td>
<td>$24.65</td>
<td>$27.91</td>
<td>$3.26</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S2 - Commercial</td>
<td>Per ccf</td>
<td>$5.07</td>
<td>$4.75</td>
<td>-$0.32</td>
<td>-6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S2 - Restaurant</td>
<td>Per ccf</td>
<td>$9.29</td>
<td>$8.31</td>
<td>-$0.98</td>
<td>-10.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WATER
Water Utility rates are imposed in order that the City may recover its costs of buying and distributing water. All revenue derived from the proposed rates and charges will be used exclusively for the recovery of costs associated with providing water service and to fund the capital improvement program required in order to maintain and periodically replace aging water infrastructure. The Water Utility’s water rates and charges are developed based on generally accepted cost of service principles. They are evaluated on an annual basis to determine if adequate revenues will be collected to pay for operations and maintenance costs and to provide funds for the capital improvement program. More information regarding the proposed water rate changes can be found on the City’s website at www.cityofpaloalto.org/rateincrease
May 17, 2011

Re: Protest of Proposed Rate Increase – Water and Wastewater

Dear Council Members:

This letter is to lodge a formal protest of the proposed increase in water and wastewater rates beginning July 2011.

It is ludicrous to raise these, and other utility rates, at the same time that the city is using utility revenue transfers to pay for general fund expenditures. Figure out a way to reduce costs for the city and allow the residents of Palo Alto to benefit from a city-owned utility. If the utilities are simply being used as a funding source to pay city employees, the residents may as well simply get their utilities from PG&E and do away with the liabilities created by the extensive city workforce.

We sincerely hope that the Council will deny the proposed rate hike at its June 13, 2011 meeting and instruct staff to present a plan to lower costs which will result in the utility revenue transfers being lowered and ultimately eliminated.

Respectfully,

Michael C. Gagliasso

Catherine E. Murphy
April 28, 2011

City Clerk
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Re: Moreno Middlefield, LLC, 2605 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94306
City of Palo Alto Utilities Account No: 30002093

Dear City Clerk:

As managing agents for the ownership of Moreno Middlefield, LLC, whose address is referenced above, please accept this as our formal protest of the proposed water and sewer rate increases effective July 2011.

During this dramatic economic climate, our property has seen its businesses struggling because they could not produce enough income to meet their expenses. In this instance, the property’s water and sewer fees are reimbursed by each business owner and any increase in expenses will create undue financial hardship.

Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Cassidy Turley PMSF, Inc.
as Agent for Moreno Middlefield, LLC

Susan E. Causey, CPM, CSM
Vice President
Agent for Owner
DRE License #00784073
City Clerk: 6/3/2011

We protest against the proposed water and wastewater rate change since our current rates are higher than other cities in the Santa Clara County.

We are the owner of house located in 1095 Moreno Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94303 (APN: 127-02-042)

Utilities Acct: # 30049914

Hong Xu
Geely Liu
10 May, 201

John & Maureen Martin
3595 Murdoch Dr.
Palo Alto, CA 94306-3636

To:
City of Palo Alto

As long-time residents of Palo Alto, and senior citizens hoping to stay in our house during our final years, we are protesting yet another rate hike for our utility service! We are finding our utility bills are rising at every level and we are requesting no water rate increases at all, please. We are stunned by our gas bill of Jan. 20th at $9.42 per day, and for 4/1-30/11 at $7.39 a day. We are only 2 people, + find these bills very high. Could it be meter error? Maureen Martin
April 27, 2011

City Clerk
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94303

I am protesting both the residential water and wastewater increases.

Both increases are too much.

Sincerely,

Masao Sumida
Account # 30000731

Masao Sumida
1040 Newell Rd.
Palo Alto, CA 94303-2930
Objection to Water Rate Increase

We wish to formally protest the proposed increase in water rates for residential users. There is no justification for increasing the monthly meter charge from $5 to $10. The basic meter charge itself is unwarranted, and the increase in the charge is even more inappropriate.

The increase in water rates of 8.1% for use over 6 ccf also is excessive and should not be approved. The volume at which rates change should be retained at 7 ccf, or increased to 8 ccf, not reduced. The amount of increase of $0.456/cca also is excessive. We wish to protest both the reduction of the threshold for higher rates, and the amount of increase at the higher rates.

Our address is 4010 Sun St. Our account is 065-055980-3.

Robert Moss

Harriet Moss
May 5, 2011

3073 Price Court
Palo Alto, CA 94303

City Clerk
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Reference: Assessor’s Parcel Number 127-52-010-00

Gentlemen,

The purpose of this letter is to protest the proposed Fiscal Year 2012 utility rate adjustment for both water and wastewater rates.

Very truly yours,

Arthur Koolpe
City Council,

I protest the water & wastewater increase. Every year in June for the past several years, the rates of utilities are raised. I am disabled and am on a fixed budget. It is a hardship for me to keep having my rates be raised each year. My parcel # is 127.31-032-00. My address 2410 Ross Road, Palo Alto, Calif 94303.

My Palo Alto Utilities account # is 30037037.

Laura A. Fersiato
Subject: Proposed water rate increase, final

We are fortunate to have an adequate water supply this year, therefore water rates should be lower than when we have a shortage of water.

It has always been the City policy and my policy to save water and thus lower consumption. However, we recommend who use 7-29 ccf are being charged 6.080 per ccf and the Commercial who use as much or more are charged far less at 1.486 per ccf, this does not seem fair and why the inequality?

You have many elderly, retired people living in Palo Alto, who are on fixed income and can do nothing to increase it. Are you trying to drive us out of our homes in Palo Alto by raising the City rates and cost of living each and every year.

I am strongly against frequent utility rate increase.

Ruth Eaton, 2574 Brand Rd, Palo Alto
May 1, 2011

Subject: Protest of water and wastewater rate adjustment

Address: 3021 Ross Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303

Dear City Clerk,

I am writing to officially protest the utility rate adjustments for wastewater and water.

Regards,

Seavan Sternheim

Homeowner: 3021 Ross Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303
To: City of Palo Alto
Re: Utility Rate Change

To Whom it may concern

I received your “Notice of Utility Rate Change” dated April 25, 2011 wherein it specified I may submit a written protest. The following is my protest.

I have always and will always believe that a person should take care of themselves and pay their own way through life. I have no complaint with paying my fair share if the City needs more funds to pay for the services I receive. That’s only fair. What I strongly object to however is the same solution the Federal Government is using, asking middle class workers to bear the majority of the burden while giving special breaks to over-privileged people and big business.

A wastewater hookup in and of itself does not put any burden at all on a wastewater treatment plant. A burden is created only by actual waste that is sent to that plant. More waste that is sent the larger the burden on the treatment plant. My modest single bathroom home sends down an extremely small amount of waste. A vast majority of that comes from the shower and kitchen sink, both of which need little or no treatment at all. That leaves a single toilet as my very modest burden on the wastewater treatment plant. Basic rates for Residential, Restaurants and Commercial customers have all been increased the same amount and that’s fair. The burden placed on the wastewater treatment plant by Restaurants and Commercial customers however can be, and usually is, enormously larger than what my home could possibly create so there is a tiered rate schedule for those customers. Those rates are going down and that is the opposite of fair. The waste from Restaurants and Commercial customers is the source of the vast majority of the burden on a treatment plant and they get a reduced rate? How do you justify that? (That’s a rhetorical question, of course you cannot justify it.)

I have the same issue with the water rates. I do not even water the lawns now to conserve water and I see my rates will decrease 8.8% for the first 6 Hundred Cubic Feet but then for the next two rate tiers they go up 8.1 and 35.8% respectively whereas Commercial rates go down 9.3% for 14 Hundred Cubic Feet and do not increase at all above that. Again that is the opposite of fair. Again the vast majority of the burden on the water system/supply is coming from the Commercial sector and yet they get a bigger break. If I for example were to use 50ccf of water it would cost $321.88 but a Commercial customer would only pay $178.42 for the same amount of water. In fact they could use 66.27ccf of water and still pay less than I would. Another way to describe their savings is they could get 1,627 Cubic Feet = 12,170.8 gallons of water for free. Well, free to them, not free for me, I and other middle class homeowners will be paying for their savings.

As I previously stated I am more than willing to cover my fair share but I urge you to require the same sacrifices from everyone, not put most of the burden on those who can afford it the least.

Thank you,
John Naber

John Naber
To Mayor Espinosa and City Council Members:

Please vote NO on water and wastewater rate increases.

In your discussion re the proposed water and wastewater rate increases, I hope that you will consider the numerous senior residents of Palo Alto living on fixed incomes for whom these rate increases would constitute a significant hardship. I am an 87 year old widow on a fixed and limited income, expecting an unemployed son (20 years) in addition to myself. As you know, there have been no cost of living increases in Social Security payments for the past 2 years and no prospects of increases in the foreseeable future. I am trying to remain in my home for the rest of my life; that will not be possible if my living expenses exceed my income.

In conclusion, I sincerely hope that you will give serious consideration to the effect these proposed rate increases will have on the lives of the elderly and other low-income residents of Palo Alto.

Sincerely,
Evelyn B. Carlson
3827 Ross Road
Palo Alto 94303
2 May 2011

City Clerk  
City of Palo Alto  
250 Hamilton Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Utilities Account No.: 30006771

Please accept this letter as my protest against any proposed increase in water rates for my parcel at the above address.

Thank you.

Theodore L. Glasser
June 6, 2011

City Clerk
City of Palo Alto
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Dear City Clerk:

We are taking this opportunity to write this letter of protest against the proposed increase in the Water Utility water rates change. The proposed change is a very significant one and is much higher than necessary in our opinion.

We are long term owners and occupants of our property in Palo Alto, since 1976. Please take into consideration the older people who may be on a fixed income or very close to it.

Thank you for taking this into consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard Raiter
Richard and Joan Raiter
211 Seale Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301
650-326-0232
Parcel Number 124-18-029-00
Palo Alto Utilities Account # 30025635

Joan Raiter
May 3, 2011

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Notice of Proposed increases to water charges: public hearing June 13, 2011

Palo Alto Utilities account number: 30031160 – for Sanjay Patel

In response to your notice of utility rate changes letter dated 4/25, I duly submit this written protest to confirm my opposition to the proposed increases to the following specific charges:

1. Wastewater rates increases for S1 – Residential customers
2. Monthly water service charges for customers with 5/8” meter size [I wish my salary would increase by 100% in one fell swoop]

Can there be any justification for ripping off the proletariat? The city had its chance to put away plenty of money for the rainy-day piggy-bank during the heyday of dotcom and housing bubble – instead there appears to have been wanton profligacy without due consideration to potential future hardships.

Shame on the city for mismanagement of available funds during the “good times”.

A disgruntled, and fed-up with being nickel-and-dimed taxpayer,

______________________________
Sanjay Patel
Honorable City Council
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto CA 94301

Dear Mayor Espinosa & Colleagues,

The resident owners of Waverley Park Condominiums respectfully protest proposed new wastewater and water rate schedules. It is high time the council resolved the unfair and inconsistent rates imposed on our type of multi-unit residential dwelling.

Our building contains ten (10) households with Assessor’s Parcel Numbers 120-13-001 through 120-13-010. Our separate street addresses run from 258 to 296 Waverley Street. Our CPAU Account Number is 30015914.

Please note this key fact: over 12 months we average 4.2ccf of water usage (even less wastewater due to evaporation from pool) per household per month.

Our wastewater is classified as S1 Residential. We pay ten times (10X) the monthly rate of $24.65, or $246.50/month. We face a 13.2% increase to $279.10.

Please note S2 Commercial customers are about to enjoy a decrease of 6.3% to only $4.75/ccf. If we were classified Commercial, - AS WE ARE FOR OUR WATER USAGE - our monthly cost would be $159.50 (42x4.75). That would save us $120/month.

Our water is classified as W4 Commercial. We pay $4.946/ccf.

W1 Residential customers using 0-6 ccf will pay $3.60/ccf. We ARE residential customers each one of whom uses 0-6 ccf/month. If we were classified Residential, our monthly cost would average $151 (42x3.60). That would save us $57/month vs. present average $208.

Under the status quo, we have the worst of both possible worlds. CPAU is, and has always, extracted the maximum income from small multi-unit residences such as ours.

Please decide once and for all if we are commercial or residential. If we MUST be some of each, then for mercy’s sake let us be commercial for wastewater and residential for water!

Respectfully yours,

President, Waverley Park Condominiums
May 1, 2011

Members of the Palo Alto City Council
c/o City Clerk
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Re Proposed Water Rate Increases

Honorable Members of the Council,

I am writing to protest against the proposed water rate increase as outlined in the Notice of Utility Rate Change of April 25, 2011.

I and my husband, John Seely Brown, are the owners of the property located at 1110 Waverley Street. The parcel number is 120-18-045-00. My utility account number is 30028387. We have a large lot. It is 150 by 115 feet for a total of 17,250 square feet. In addition it is a corner lot with 4 trees on one block face and 6 on the other for a total of 10 large, mature, street trees.

The existing water rates already unfairly penalize all large lot owners in Palo Alto. The proposed rates make this unfairness even more extreme. Large lots can easily require double or triple the water their neighbors do - with exactly the same kind of landscaping. Large lots on a corner get a double whammy. Property owners are required to water street trees, especially during the dry summer months. Corner lots, on average, have more than double the trees of midblock lots. Large corner lots have even more. In our case, we have approximately five times the trees of a midblock lot.

Street trees and landscaped gardens are two of the features that make Palo Alto the uniquely lovely community it is. Those of us with large lots or unusual numbers of street trees should not be penalized for contributing to our community by caring for our property. I know you are trying to use the rate schedule to encourage all of us to be efficient in our use of water and I applaud this effort. But giving 7,500 square foot lots the same water budget as 17,250 square foot lots is not really going to accomplish what you want as the vast majority of parcels will not need to do much water rationing at all.

I strongly urge the City to consider a water rate scheme that takes parcel size and location into account. In particular, the volumetric triggers that put a customer into a higher rate category could be adjusted based on parcel size and on whether a lot is on a corner or is midblock.

In addition I am quite dismayed at the growing disparity in residential water rates and commercial rates. Again, it’s an issue both of fairness and effectiveness. Basically, you have just given commercial users a nice big discount. And counted on residential users to pay for it.

Sincerely,

Susan E Haviland
June 1, 2011

Palo Alto City Council
To City Clerk
250 Hamilton Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Gentlemen

In regard to a raise in the water rates, we strongly protest. Our very very high utility bills are more than adequate to cover wastewater service and infrastructure costs. All that is needed is to give back to the general fund.

Please consider this as three (3) separate protests.

Christopher & Josephine Arnold

Parcel # 120-20-024 (1248 Waverley)
Parcel # 003-01-050 (357 Fulton Ave.)
Parcel # 003-01-042 (370 Everett Ave.)
Ladies & Gentlemen

Your letter 25 April 2011 requests correspondence from residents if they wish to protest the proposed raises in water rates. Consider this a vehement protest. My wife and I are retired with a work related disability income (from PERS) for the enormous amount of $2,345.82 a month after the usual deductions for what we consider reasonable future protection of long term care and recently a $37.59 PERS Choice Bay supplement was added to the original $168.66 premium. Needless to say that $37.59 aided us considerably. Because I was forced into retirement in 1978, long before the Police pay scale reached the astronomical figures they pull.

We scrimp and save every way we know how. By: replacing our lawns some 7-8- years ago. Having only a few mealy flowers (in pots) to give our modest home a touch of color. I must mention some years ago when the city’s requirement that Public Safety Personnel live within the City limits A requirement that was ruled illegal and Unconstitutional by the Courts, virtually everyone in those two categories fled the City for surrounding locations where they could get more house for less money, we stayed put because a. we loved living here. b. my wife was born. raised and educated here, c. we felt we needed to be readily available to the citizens of Palo Alto in the event of an emergency. Those who moved to Fremont, San Jose, Sunnyvale or Santa Clara at their first opportunity had the attitude: The “Hit with Palo Alto, I have a family of my own to concern myself with in an emergency. I would venture a guess that less than 5” of Public Safety people live in Palo Alto now. I know that from my era only a total of 4 Policemen have retired and remain here, including myself. The financial pressures placed on us by these constant price raises for utilities is tremendous.

I know this objection will dismissed as a whiner letter because none of you have ever been cast into the position we are in. However at 80 years of age and failing health our options are extremely limited

So we object to the price increase and I believe that if you were in our circumstances you would feel the same.

Sincerely Ed & Nancy Oblander.
Dear Sir,

We're responding to the "Notice of Utility Rate Change". We object to the utility rate adjustment increases to both the water and waste water rates. We are against all of the proposed charges.

Our assessor's parcel number is, 132-56-019-00 and our utility account number is 300 22364.

Your truly,

Marjorie and David Masters
TO: City of Palo Alto

FROM: Frank Kwong & Caly Chiu

RE: Written Protest AGAINST all of the proposed charges on water, wastewater and refuse

DATE: 5/2/2011

WRITTEN PROTEST AGAINST ALL OF THE PROPOSED CHARGES (WATER AND REFUSE).

Assessor’s Parcel Number: 086-18-003-00

Property address: 837 Wintergreen Way Palo Alto, CA 94303

City of Palo Alto Account Number: 119973-30315

We protest the rate increase on both water and refuse.

Thank you.

Signed:

[Signature]

[Signature]