



Ronald Onslow, Mayor
 Donald Stose, Councilmember
 David Taylor, Councilmember
 Lee Wells, Councilmember
 Darren Wertz, Councilmember

December 27, 2011

Dear Utility Customer:

Each year the City reviews its water, sewer and storm water utility rates to confirm they are adequate to provide for ongoing operation and maintenance of each system, fund necessary improvements, and ensure the long-term financial viability of each utility. Based on this analysis, in 2012 there will be a 5% increase in water utility rates, a 10% increase in sewer utility rates, and a 10% increase to stormwater utility rates.

To assist you in your understanding of the rate changes, the monthly utility charges adopted by the City Council are shown for a single family residence:

Utility	Utility Rate		Utility Tax		Total Base Cost
	Change	Base Cost	Change	Base Cost	
Water	5%	\$21.44	No Change	\$1.72	\$23.16
Sewer	10%	\$54.77	No Change	\$4.38	\$59.15
Storm Water	10%	\$5.50	No Tax	\$0.00	\$5.50
TOTAL					\$87.81

To conserve water and provide more options for our residents, a residential water conservation incentive rate program was established. Customers who consistently use less than 500 cubic feet of water per month may realize a cost savings with the new conservation incentive program; however, should customers exceed 500 cubic feet per month, they would see an increase above the standard water utility rate. The Conservation Incentive program rate is \$0.04288 per cubic foot with no minimum monthly charge.

Following is a comparison of rates under the standard rate structure and the new conservation rate structure:

Rate Structure	Monthly Rate at Usage in Cubic Feet								
	0	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800
Standard Water Utility Base	\$21.44	\$21.44	\$21.44	\$21.44	\$21.44	\$21.44	\$23.46	\$25.48	\$27.50
Water Conservation Incentive	\$0.00	\$4.29	\$8.58	\$12.86	\$17.15	\$21.44	\$25.73	\$30.02	\$34.30

Annually between January 1st and January 31st, utility customers may opt into or out of the chosen water rate structure by contacting our Utility Clerk, Lindsay Warren, at (360) 887-8251 or lindsay.warren@ci.ridgefield.wa.us. If selected by the customer, the rate would take effect beginning February 1, 2012 and be reflected on the bill issued April 1, 2012. The residential sewer and storm water utility rates are not impacted by the water conservation rate program and would continue to have a base cost as shown above.

Mixed-use properties that have both a residential and commercial component may opt into or out of a newly developed mixed-use water rate program annually by contacting our Utility Clerk, Lindsay Warren, at (360) 887-8251 between January 1st and January 31st. The new mixed-use water rate program consists of a minimum monthly rate of \$21.44 plus \$0.0256 per cubic foot. If

selected by the customer, the rate would take effect beginning February 1, 2012 and be reflected on the bill issued April 1, 2012. The residential sewer and storm water utility rates are not impacted by the mixed-use water rate program and would continue to have a base cost as shown above.

Bills for all other customers (commercial, multi-family residential, etc.) will reflect similar increases. Utility bills will continue to be issued bi-monthly after services are rendered, with the first bill reflecting the increases issued on April 1, 2011 (February-March billing cycle).

I understand that increases in rates are never easy, especially in light of the current economic conditions, and I greatly appreciate your understanding of these rate changes. To better assist you, the enclosed sheet provides information on various programs and payment options associated with city-operated utilities that may be available to you. Should you have any questions regarding city-operated utilities, please contact Steve Wall, Public Works Director, at (360) 887-8251, and should you have any questions regarding billing, payments, or program options and transfers, please contact Lindsay Warren, Utility Clerk, at (360) 887-8251.

Sincerely,
The City of Ridgefield

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin L. Clary". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Justin L. Clary
City Manager