

PO Box 190 – 1037 NW Grebe Street – Seal Rock, Oregon 97376 Phone:541.563.3529 – Fax 541.563.4246 Website: www.srwd.org My Water Usage Customer Portal: bit.ly/mywaterusage



Seal Rock Water District

Pursuant to ORS 264.312, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Seal Rock Water District Board of Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, May 13, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. or thereafter, using a virtual conference meeting room.

SRWD's primary source water supply line from City of Toledo is vulnerable to natural hazards and has failed numerous times over the years, interrupting our water supply and causing expensive repairs. To avoid future risks of catastrophic water losses, the Board of Commissioners in 2015 authorized the development of the district's own primary water source with the construction of the Beaver Creek intake and advanced membrane water treatment facility.



At that time, the estimated project cost of \$12.5 million was to be funded through G.O. bonds approved by the voters in 2011 and grants. However, project costs have now increased to \$17.5 million. While we have been able to offset some of the increased costs with additional funding, which includes; sizable grants and forgivable loans from USDA-RD and the State of Oregon, the Board is considering a 17% increase in the monthly rate beginning July 2021 for domestic and commercial customers.

If adopted, customers can expect an increase beginning with the June-July meter reading cycle for statements mailed at the end of July. For a domestic customer using 1,000 gallons per month the increase will be \$7.42, from \$39.58 to \$47.00 per month. The calculation for outside district customer water rates will remain 150% of the inside district rate.

We know that a rate increase is never welcome news. However, this would be the first increase since 2018. It is necessitated in part by increased costs of the Beaver Creek resulting from government Buy American project requirements on iron and steel products, mandates that SRWD fully supports. Another factor is a 70% increase in the wholesale cost of our water from City of Toledo. A draft of the proposed rate schedule is available for review upon request before the scheduled hearing. Written comments or testimony may be sent to the attention of the Office Manager, P.O. Box 190, Seal Rock, OR 97376. Going forward, the District intends to perform a comprehensive water rate analysis based on the operation of its own source water system. Performance data over 12 to 18 months are needed before developing a new rate recommendation and the Board is hopeful that there will be an opportunity to reduce the rate based on the data.



If you would like more detail regarding the District's primary source water project or the proposed rate increase, please visit our website at WWW.SRWD.ORG or call us at 541-563-3529.

Sincerely

