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## **PRVWSD Raises Water/Sewer Rates**

The Pearl River Valley Water Supply District (PRVWSD) Board of Directors on Thursday approved a rate increase for its water and sewer customers, effective for the October billing cycle.

The rate increase is necessary to offset the higher costs the state agency is continuing to pay its regional sewer providers and for increased costs for upkeep and maintenance of infrastructure, PRVWSD General Manager John Sigman told board members at its August meeting.

While PRVWSD supplies its residents with clean water from its own wells, all sewage is sent to be processed by regional providers. “Starting last year, we saw a big increase in what we pay to one of the regional sewer providers, which recently built a \$110 million wastewater treatment plant,” Sigman said. “That’s in addition to past increases by the other regional sewer providers. In the past year, we paid \$600,000 more to wastewater service providers than we did the previous year. We want to ensure that our water and sewer infrastructure is maintained in great condition for our customers, which is why this increase is necessary.”



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The new increase will average out to about 15 percent per customer, through the line-item Regional Sewage Charge (RSC) that was added last year.

PRVWSD's RSC for FY 2023 is based on a \$4.25 fee per 1,000 gallons of water used, up from \$2.25. RSC rates currently charged in neighboring communities range from \$2.00 to over \$7.00.

Under the new PRVWSD rates, a customer who uses 6,000 gallons of water per month currently pays \$82.50 per month for water and sewer. Beginning in October, that same customer would receive a bill for \$94.50, an increase of \$12.00.

Sigman said that nearly half of PRVWSD's customers use below 3,000 gallons per month and will see only an increase in the regional sewage charge. Sigman said that there will be no increase in the volumetric charges this year.

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