

September 25, 2023

## **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 December billing cycle.

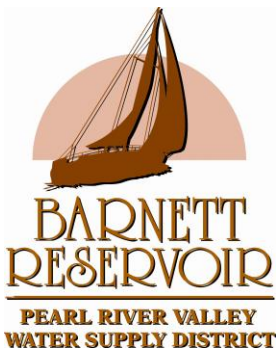
The rate increase is necessary to offset the higher costs the state agency is continuing to pay its regional sewer providers and for increased costs for treatment and upkeep and maintenance of infrastructure, PRVWSD General Manager John Sigman told board members at its September meeting.

While PRVWSD supplies its residents with clean water from its own wells, all sewage is sent to be processed by regional providers. “All three regional sewer providers that we rely on to process sewage for our customers have either raised their rates or they are in the process of raising their rates, which unfortunately affects us. We have to ensure we have adequate funds to pay those providers, and we also want to ensure we make plans to have enough funding to account for depreciation of our assets,” said Sigman.

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John G. Sigman, Executive Director



The increase will be through the line-item Regional Sewer Charge (RSC). The RSC will increase from \$4.25 per 1,000 gallons of water used to \$4.75.

A customer who uses 5,000 gallons of water per month currently pays \$77.25 per month for water and sewer. Beginning with the December billing cycle, that same customer would receive a bill for \$79.75. The increase will average out to about three percent per customer.

Sigman said that there will be no increase in the volumetric charges this year.

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September 2023

Dear Customer,

Please be aware that water/sewer customers will see a rate increase, effective for the December billing cycle. These bills will be mailed out around the first of January. The rate increase will be applied through the Regional Sewer Charge (RSC), which will increase from \$4.25 per 1,000 gallons to \$4.75 per 1,000 gallons. There is no increase in the minimum or volumetric charges for water or sewer.

Rates are only increased when it's absolutely necessary, and this increase is necessary for several reasons: to offset the high costs PRVWSD is paying regional sewer providers, to offset increased costs for upkeep and maintenance of infrastructure, and because PRVWSD, as a state agency, is not allowed to borrow money the same way as municipalities and other water/sewer companies. We want to ensure that our infrastructure is maintained in great condition, and we want to guarantee great service for all of our customers.

Here are some examples of bills that customers can expect based on the new rates:

Usage: between 3,000 – 3,999 gallons

Minimum Water Bill (3,000 gallons): \$14; Minimum Sewer Bill (3,000 gallons): \$16

Volumetric Charge for Water per 1,000 Gallons after the First 3,000:  $\$5.50 \times 0 = \$0$

Volumetric Charge for Sewer per 1,000 Gallons after the First 3,000:  $\$7.50 \times 0 = \$0$

Regional Sewer Charge Rate per 1,000 Gallons:  $\$4.75 \times 3 = \$14.25$

Total: \$44.25

Usage: between 4,000 – 4,999 gallons

Minimum Water Bill (3,000 gallons): \$14; Minimum Sewer Bill (3,000 gallons): \$16

Volumetric Charge for Water per 1,000 Gallons after the First 3,000:  $\$5.50 \times 1 = \$5.50$

Volumetric Charge for Sewer per 1,000 Gallons after the First 3,000:  $\$7.50 \times 1 = \$7.50$

Regional Sewer Charge Rate per 1,000 Gallons:  $\$4.75 \times 4 = \$19.00$

Total: \$62.00

Usage: between 5,000 – 5,999 gallons

Minimum Water Bill (3,000 gallons): \$14; Minimum Sewer Bill (3,000 gallons): \$16

Volumetric Charge for Water per 1,000 Gallons after the First 3,000:  $\$5.50 \times 2 = \$11$

Volumetric Charge for Sewer per 1,000 Gallons after the First 3,000:  $\$7.50 \times 2 = \$15$

Regional Sewer Charge Rate per 1,000 Gallons:  $\$4.75 \times 5 = \$23.75$

Total: \$79.75

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John Sigman, Executive Director