



# FACT SHEET - 2008 Special Service Fees

## OVERVIEW

In the utility industry, it is customary to assess a range of fees for special services that are associated for the benefit of a particular customer. These fees are designed to recover costs associated with providing special services and help decrease pressure on system-wide rates, which otherwise subsidize special services provided to limited groups of customers.

SAWS recently conducted a comprehensive survey of its 2006 -2007 special service fee program. Staff found that many fees have not been modified for nearly 10 years. To better reflect the actual costs of providing the services associated with specific fees, it is proposed that these fees be adjusted. Adjustments would generate an additional \$1.66 million in net new annual revenue (less than 1 percent of proposed 2008 saws budget). Fee adjustment will have minimal impact to businesses.

### METER TRIP FEE

- New fee to recover costs for customer-requested trips to residences for meter activations/deactivations (e.g. turn-off's for repairs, emergencies and vacations)
- Proposed Fee: \$10 per trip; for Affordability Program-qualified customers, proposed fee: \$5

### INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL BUSINESS FEES

#### **Industrial Waste Permit:** fee last modified in 1998

- Proposed:
  - o \$4,500 fee per five year non-categorical user
  - o \$6,000 per five year categorical user permit
- Currently
  - o \$1,500 fee per five year non-categorical user
  - o \$2,000 fee per five year categorical user
- Annual payments would be allowed
- Impacts only 93 permit holders.

#### **Industrial Discharge Sampling Fee**

- Proposed:
  - \$400 fee per sample for Significant Industrial Users (SIU) (93 permit holders)
  - \$3.84 per month for non-SIU permittees (about 3,000 small dischargers such as restaurants, grocers, car washes, bakeries and laundromats)
- Currently
  - \$200 per sample (SIU)
  - \$1.92 per month (non-SIU)

#### **Liquid Waste Hauler Permit** (affects 165 vehicles)

- \$246 per year (appx \$20/month)
- \$10 per record book submitted
- Formerly \$180 per year/\$7.80 per book

#### **Laboratory Testing fees** – (for 93 permit holders and private firms using lab services)

- Bring testing fees up to industry standard

### ACCOUNT DEPOSIT

- Residential water/wastewater deposit would increase from \$55 to \$72; for Affordability Program-qualified customers, deposit to be \$55
- Last changed in 1985
- New wastewater-only account deposit - \$36; for Affordability Program-qualified customers - \$18

### DEVELOPMENT RELATED FEES

#### **Lift Station Use & Maintenance**

- One time fee of \$87,410 to address lift station maintenance cost for 10 years
- Formerly one time fee of \$46,006
- **Only affects new lift stations (only 3 added per year since 2001) and helps developers avoid major capital sewerage costs**

#### **Fire Flow Test**

- \$34 flat fee per test of emergency system
- Formerly \$18 per test
- Only 535 tests conducted in 2006

#### **Fire Hydrant Water Usage Rate**

- Typically, water used at construction sites
- Increase will charge to 13.66¢ per 100 gallons of water used for all areas of city
- Formerly 5.48¢ (inside the city limits)/7.09¢ (outside the city limits) per hundred gallons of water used
- Affects only contractors using about 310 meters on average monthly

#### **Well Inspection Fees**

- \$320 monitor plugging of old wells, \$384 monitor drilling of new wells
- Formerly \$50/\$200
- Only 65 well plugging inspections and 84 drilling inspections in 2006
- **Ensures water supply safety and reduces chance of accidental aquifer contamination**

#### **Encroachment Processing Fee**

- \$430 per application processed
- Formerly no fee to research, process & grant right-of-way requests on SAWS property
- City and CPS already charge comparable fees
- Only 14 encroachments processed in 2006

### ITEMIZED STATEMENT FEE

- Propose an hourly fee for preparing statements at \$13
- Currently, \$12 flat fee is charged
- Detailed itemized statements are frequently requested by lawyers for pending litigation; only 417 itemized statements were requested in 2006