



## **PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE**

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**From:** [Pat Marriot](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM #4 APRIL 25, 2023  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 5:10:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

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Council Members:

I receive notice of the council agendas in email and always look through them to see what's coming up.

I ask you to please make it a requirement that agenda item descriptions are meaningful to residents. For example:

- 4. Adopt a Resolution for the Approval of Guidelines for the submission and tabulation of protests in connection with Rate Hearings conducted pursuant to Article XIID, Section 6 of the California Constitution (A. Fairman)

Nothing in this blurb tells me it's about the sewer rate increase. Why is that key word missing?

I also found the snail mail notice on the sewer rate increase to be confusing and deceptive. It's poorly written and obscures the impact of the rate increase. The details are complicated, but a chart showing a typical sewer bill increasing year to year would have made everything clear. As it is, residents will have no idea that their sewer fees will double in 5 years.

At the February 28 council meeting we saw a chart showing increases in "Annual Bill" and "Monthly Rate" going out five years. Easily understood. Shows an increase of 116% from now until 2027.

<https://mccmeetingspublic.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/losaltosca-meet-8961f5b68adc4bcda4f41870ea8b97a0/ITEM-Attachment-001-c22f60eeaf74d6a9564103c0c473f80.pdf>

FIGURE 11. ANNUAL SINGLE-FAMILY SEWER BILL COMPARISON



The notice letter we received shows “Yearly Sewer Rates” and “Volumetric Rates” with a calculation using “hcf” and “EDU” – not trivially obvious.

There are probably legal requirements about wording used in the letter, but why couldn’t it have included a chart like the one shown in February so residents could clearly see what the rate increase would mean over the next five years? Too scary?

I also found out that if someone wants to send a protest letter, they must use the name on the outside of the envelope in which the notice came. If your house is in a trust, you have to sign with the name of the trust. My envelope went out with the recycle.

It would have been easy to include the addressee in the “greeting” of the notice, which is done all the time in mass mailings. Or there could have been a tear-off portion of the notice to return to the city. Was the intention to make protesting difficult?

I also ask you to require a meaningful “executive summary” in all staff reports, including costs of projects and consultants. The 2-28-23 sewer report left us to dig through a 46-page study to find the thing we most care about: how much will my sewer bill increase? It’s no wonder so many questions were asked by council members and residents.

Maybe the reason few people pay attention to council meetings is that so much work is involved to find the most basic and relevant information.

Thanks for listening,

Pat Marriott