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DATE: February 20, 2024

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Travis Sanborn, Finance Director

THROUGH: Kyle Knopp, City Manager

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 1598-2023 Temporarily Waiving Sewer Fees for Customers Whose Residences Have Been 'Red-Tagged' By A Declared Natural Disaster.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Approve the Resolution as drafted; or

Amend the Resolution and approve; or

Take no action on the Resolution

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Following the December 20, 2022, earthquake and subsequent tremors in January 2023, the Rio Dell City Council recognized the significant hardship faced by residents whose homes sustained damage and were deemed uninhabitable ("Red-Tagged"). In response, Resolution 1578-2023 was passed, waiving sewer fees for these residences for a period of 6 months.

Resolution 1578-2023, approved by the Rio Dell City Council, waived sewer fees for "Red-Tagged" residences from December 20, 2022, to June 30, 2023. A total of \$6,321 in customer sewer fees were waived during this period. Subsequent to June 30, 2023, customers were billed at the pre-earthquake rate per Resolution 1578-2023.

At the February 6, 2024, City Council meeting, concerns were raised regarding sewer bill charges for unoccupied, "Red-Tagged" residences. To address these concerns, City staff was directed to revisit Resolution 1578-2023. City staff developed a revised Sewer Bill Adjustment Claim Form allowing ratepayers with "Red-Tagged" residences to apply for a sewer fee waiver from the date of the Declared Local or State Disaster until the residences "Red-Tag" designation is removed.

The eligibility criteria are as follows:

- The residence must have been officially "Red-Tagged" following a declared natural disaster.
- The applicant must be the designated ratepayer for the affected residence.
- The applicant must demonstrate active efforts towards removing the "Red-Tag" designation.
- All completed claim forms will undergo review by the Finance Director and require approval by the City Manager.

ATTACHMENTS

-Resolution No. 1598-2024

- City of Rio Dell Sewer Bill Adjustment Claim Form



RESOLUTION NO. 1598-2024

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIO DELL
TO APPROVE TEMPORARILY WAIVING SEWER FEES FOR CUSTOMERS WHOSE
RESIDENCES HAVE BEEN 'RED-TAGGED' BY A DECLARED NATURAL DISASTER**

WHEREAS, the City of Rio Dell (the "City") is a municipality located in Humboldt County, California; and

WHEREAS, the City is located in a geographical area prone to natural disasters that can cause extensive damage to public and private infrastructure resulting in the City and/or State of California to declare a Natural Disaster; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Rio Dell has a policy of adjusting utility bills of ratepayers under certain limited circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rio Dell City Council approves temporarily waiving sewer fees, immediately following the declared disaster to customers whose homes are uninhabitable and 'Red-Tagged' by the declared Natural Disaster; and

WHEREAS, the impacted customer must apply for relief through the Sewer Bill Adjustment Claim Form; and

WHEREAS, the impacted customer must be actively working to repair the residence; and

WHEREAS, as soon as the 'Red-Tag' designation is removed, customers will return to being billed the sewer rate last registered with the City of Rio Dell prior to the earthquake disaster, and the temporary fee waiver will end for that customer; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Rio Dell approve temporarily waiving sewer fees for customers whose residences have been 'Red-Tagged' by a declared Natural Disaster.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the Rio Dell on this 20th day of February, 2024 by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Debra Garnes, Mayor

ATTEST:

Karen Dunham, City Clerk

EXHIBIT TO RESOLUTION NO. 1598-2024

CITY OF RIO DELL

SEWER BILL ADJUSTMENT CLAIM FORM

Instructions

1. Only claims for customers whose residents were 'Red-Tagged' by inspectors are eligible for adjustment.

NAME OF CLAIMANT: _____

PHONE NUMBER OF CLAIMANT: _____

MAILING ADDRESS OF CLAIMANT: _____

ADDRESS OF SERVICE: _____

I, _____ (Print name), declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was signed on _____, 20____, at Rio Dell, CA.

Finance Director, City of Rio Dell - Witness

Signature of Claimant

THIS SIDE IS TO BE COMPLETED BY CITY STAFF ONLY

Was the claimant's residence deemed 'Red-Tagged' by inspectors? _____

Dates residence was 'Red-Tagged': _____

What is the amount of the disputed bill? _____

What is the claimant's historical sewer base? _____

Is the claim related to a Declared Local or State Disaster event? If yes, 100% of the credit is to be applied: _____

Is the claimant actively working to remove the 'Red-Tagged' designation?

Explain:

CITY MANAGER'S DISPOSITION:

APPROVE CLAIM _____ DENY CLAIM _____

CITY MANAGER SIGNATURE _____