



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Agenda Request Form (ARF)

Deliver completed ARF and finalized agenda item to the Clerk or Deputy Clerk of the Board at the Yakima County Commissioners' Office, Room 232.

Prepared by: Joe Stump

Department: Public Services

Requested Agenda Date: September 12, 2023

Presenting: _____

Board of County Commissioners Record Assigned

#

222-2023

Action Requested – Check Applicable Box:

PASS RESOLUTION

EXECUTE or AMEND

PASS ORDINANCE

AGREEMENT, CONTRACT, or GRANT

ISSUE PROCLAMATION

OTHER _____

Document Title:

In the matter of adjusting rates for County owned water and wastewater systems.

Background Information:

Each year Public Services reviews each water and wastewater system's financial ability to meet its annual operating expenses and reserve goals. Yakima County Code authorizes the County to increase the monthly service fees up to the consumer price index for water and wastewater systems for those systems that are not meeting their annual operating expense and reserve goals.

Describe Fiscal Impact:

Increases monthly service rates by 4.4% in 8 of the County's 32 water and wastewater systems. Proposed increase would add between \$1.50 and \$5.60 per month to a single-family residential customer's bill, depending on the system.

Summary & Recommendation:

Resolution authorizes Public Services to increase monthly service fees by 4.4% in the Buena wastewater system beginning October 15, 2023 and in each water system noted in the resolution beginning January 1, 2024. Public Services recommends approval of the resolution.

Department Head/Elected Official Signature

Corporate Counsel Initial (for Agreements Only)

BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**IN THE MATTER OF ADJUSTING RATES
FOR COUNTY OWNED WATER AND
WASTEWATER SYSTEMS**

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WHEREAS, Section 12.08.550 of the Yakima County Code (YCC) requires the Public Services Director to annually determine a water system's financial ability to meet its annual operating expenses and required fund reserves in comparison to the system's annual revenue received and to present the findings, including a recommendation for any charge adjustments, to the Board of Yakima County Commissioners by September 1st of each year; **and**,

WHEREAS, Section 12.08.550 of the YCC authorizes the Board of Yakima County Commissioners to adjust by resolution a water system's ready to serve charges, consumption charges, and fire protection services charges annually up to the seasonally adjusted Consumer Price Index (CPI) as published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statics for water and sewerage maintenance in the closest applicable area for the previous calendar year; **and**,

WHEREAS, Section 12.05.445 of the YCC authorizes the Board of Yakima County Commissioners to adjust sewer service charges annually up to the CPI for the previous calendar year; **and**,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statics determined the CPI for water and sewerage maintenance to be 4.4% for the 2022 calendar year; **and**,

WHEREAS, the Public Services Director has completed her annual financial review of each of the County's 32 water and wastewater systems and recommends a 4.4% rate increase in eight of the systems including the Terrace Heights, Gala Estates, Fairway Estates, Heysman, Bittner, Oliver and Pleasant Hill water systems, and the Buena wastewater system; **now therefore**,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Yakima County Commissioners of Yakima County, Washington, that ready to serve charges, consumption charges and fire protection service charges shall be increased 4.4% in the Terrace Heights, Gala Estates, Fairway Estates, Heysman, Bittner, Oliver and Pleasant Hill water systems and sewer service charges shall be increased 4.4% in the Buena wastewater system as recommended by the Environmental Services Director in his August 29, 2023 report to the Board of Yakima County Commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such adjustments shall be effective as of October 15, 2023, for the wastewater system and January 1, 2024, for the water systems.

Done

SEP 12 2023

Attest:

Julie Lawrence, Clerk of the Board *or*
Erin Franklin, Deputy Clerk of the Board

LaDon Linde, Chair

Amanda McKinney, Commissioner

Kyle Curtis, Commissioner
*Constituting the Board of County Commissioners
for Yakima County, Washington*