

Waterline Express

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The Newsletter for Travis County Water Control and Improvement District No. 17

Winter 2015

Board of Directors Set 2015 Tax Rates

The WCID17 Board of Directors held a Public Hearing and voted at the October board meeting to set the tax rates for the District-Wide Operation and Maintenance Tax (O&M) as well as the Defined Area taxes for the Flintrock Ranch Estates, Steiner Ranch and Serene Hills areas. All customers pay the District-Wide Operation and Maintenance Tax. Taxes for the Defined Areas are used to pay the annual debt service payments for the bonds that have been issued, and these taxes are paid only by the customers in those areas.

The District-Wide Operation and Maintenance Tax adopted by the Board is \$0.0585 per \$100 assessed valuation.

Flintrock Ranch Estates Defined Area – the tax rate adopted is \$0.4505 per \$100 assessed valuation, which is a decrease of \$0.0021 from the prior year’s rate. Although the tax rates decreased, the average home value slightly increased, resulting in a 3.91 % in taxes paid by the average home value, or \$118 more annually.

Steiner Ranch Defined Area – the tax rate adopted is \$0.3751 per \$100 assessed valuation, which is also a decrease of \$0.0534 from the prior year’s rate. Even though the average home value slightly increased, the taxes paid will still result in a 6.33% savings, or \$120 less annually. Tax rates should continue to decrease each year since all of the authorized bonds have been issued.

Serene Hills Defined Area – the tax rate adopted will remain at \$0.6500 per \$100 assessed valuation, with \$0.2071 of the rate applied to debt service payments, and the remaining \$0.4429 applied to Operations and Maintenance for the Serene Hills Defined Area. The first bonds were issued in the amount of \$4,450,000 and it is anticipated that a second bond issue will be made during 2016.

New Water and Wastewater Rates are in Effect

The Board adopted the FY2016 Operating Budget at the September board meeting, which included a slight increase in both the water and wastewater rates. The LCRA Volumetric Drought Rate charge of \$0.08/1000 gallon was discontinued as of October 1, 2015. Base fees remain the same. The changes made to water rates are as follows:

Water, Residential – Volume Rates, per 1,000 gallons:

Volume Tier:	FY2015 Rate	FY2016 Rate	Increase from Combined Rate
0-10,000	\$1.78	\$1.90	\$0.12
10,001-15,000	\$2.66	\$2.78	\$0.12
15,001-30,000	\$4.00	\$4.12	\$0.12
30,001-50,000	\$5.96	\$6.24	\$0.28
50,001-100,000	\$8.48	\$9.00	\$0.52
100,001 and up	\$12.42	\$13.20	\$0.78

Water, Commercial – Volume Rates, per 1,000 gallons:

Volume Tier:	FY2015 Rate	FY2016 Rate	Increase from Combined Rate
0-50,000	\$2.50	\$2.65	\$0.15
50,001-100,000	\$3.50	\$3.70	\$0.20
Over 100,000	\$6.00	\$6.25	\$0.25

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HOLIDAY TRASH PICK-UP SCHEDULE



Trash and recycling pick-ups during the Holiday Season are as follows:

If you're normal Pick-up day is Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, then your service will remain unchanged.

If you're normal Pick-up day is Thursday or Friday; Thursday's pick up day will be on Friday, and Friday's pick up day will be Saturday.



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Wastewater Rates –

Volume Rates for residential wastewater customers increased from \$2.30 to \$2.50 per 1,000 gallons, based on a winter average from the usage billed December 2014, January 2015 and February 2015. If there is no usage available to calculate the winter average, the customer is assigned the District-average for those months, which was 8,000 gallons. Base rates for residential customers increased from \$24.00 to \$25.50. Volume Rates for commercial wastewater customers increased as well from \$2.30 to \$2.50 per 1,000 gallons, which are applied to the actual water usage each month.

Changes to the base fee and volume fee will not apply to the Falconhead West and North Lakeway Village wastewater customers. Falconhead West wastewater customers receive service directly from the West Travis County PUA and will be notified of any necessary rate change once the District is notified by the PUA. The current rates are comprised of a base fee of \$30 per month, plus a volume fee of \$2.65 per 1,000 gallons as applied to the customer's winter average. North Lakeway Village wastewater customers are served directly by Lakeway MUD. There are no known rate changes from LMUD at this time. Existing rates have a two-part component as well, with a base fee of \$10 per month and a volume rate of \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons as applied to the customer's winter average.

Winter Water Conservation Means Lower Wastewater Rates Year-Round

WCID 17 is reminding customers to continue conserving water, even though the summer irrigation season has passed. Your water meter measures your monthly water use, but there is no meter on your wastewater line. Winter water averaging provides WCID 17 a measure that represents the wastewater volume discharged. WCID 17 averages household water usage during the billing cycle that begins mid-November and goes through the meter readings of November, December, January and ends with the mid-February reading. These months are the basis for determining the amount you are billed for monthly wastewater service beginning in October 2016. This period of time is used since water usage during these months is generally only inside household use, and it's a good measure of the volume sent to the wastewater system.

Minimizing your water usage during these months can lower your wastewater costs every month of Fiscal Year 2016 (October 2016 - September 2017.) Remember, some ways to conserve water are to turn off automatic irrigation systems through the winter months, wash only full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine, take shorter showers and fix leaky toilets and faucets.

If you are away during the winter, have no water usage during the averaging period, or move into WCID 17 service area during this period the wastewater average will be set at a default wastewater average, which is 8,000 gallons per month for residential customers. A customer must have at least 60 consecutive billing days of water usage for a calculated wastewater average.

Conserve water over the winter and save money all year.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

WCID 17 offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 26-27, 2015, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. The offices will also be closed December 24-25, 2015 for Christmas, and January 1st for New Year's Day. Should you have a water or wastewater emergency, please call 512-537-8302.



TRAVIS COUNTY WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 17

The mission of District No. 17, a public utility, is to provide the District with an adequate supply of safe, potable water, and to ensure the fiscally sound, environmentally responsible development and management of water resources and wastewater facilities.

WCID 17 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Billing Questions
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Trash Billing Questions
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Trash Service Problems - Progressive
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Conserving Water for Today and Tomorrow

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