



South Davis Sewer District

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September, 2023

Dear South Davis Sewer Customer,

We deeply regret that it is necessary to propose an increase in the property taxes that you pay to the South Davis Sewer District beginning in 2024. For the average home valued at approximately \$556,000, this will be an increase of \$48.01 per year or \$4.00 per month. Your individual increase will vary based on the actual assessed value of your property. We chose to increase the property tax rather than raising rates again because it eases the burdens on our lower income customers and neighbors. A truth-in-taxation hearing will be held December 7, 2023 at 6:00 PM, before finalizing this proposed property tax increase.

It is important to understand why, after decades of having the lowest sewer rates and property taxes in the state, our district is forced to increase rates and property taxes so often. This is the result of the Utah Division of Water Quality requiring us, along with all other wastewater treatment facilities throughout the state, to meet increasingly stringent limits for ammonia as well as a new limit for phosphorus. It is also important to note that the Utah Division of Water Quality is delegated the authority by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to enforce Federal Clean Water Act laws in Utah.

We have no choice but to comply with these new limits because if we do not, we will be assessed very heavy fines and could even have the permits required to operate the treatment plants revoked. The District has always tried to do more with less; however, these new, unfunded mandates cannot be met by our decades old but well maintained treatment plants without significant and costly upgrades. Recent rate and tax increases have funded improvements at the District's South Plant in North Salt Lake. This proposed tax increase will go toward bonds that will fund the estimated \$60 million in required upgrades at the District's North Plant in West Bountiful. Please be assured that we undertook a comprehensive analysis of alternatives and selected the most economical one for construction.

Unfortunately, further tax or rate increases will be necessary in coming years to complete this construction; however, rather than raising rates all at once, we have deemed it best to only collect the actual amount required for each year's construction thereby leaving more money in the pockets of our customers during the coming year. If you have further questions or concerns, we are more than happy to discuss them with you. You can reach us at 801-295-3469 during regular business hours (Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). In addition, since these upgrades are unfunded mandates imposed on us by the EPA and the Utah Division of Water Quality, you may wish to contact your state legislators as well as your members of the United States Congress about your concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and our community.

Matthew J. Myers, P.E.
General Manager