

LA PINE SPECIAL SEWER DISTRICT



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www.lapinesewer.org

October 2007

Dear La Pine Special Sewer District Customer:

It's that time of year again for us to update our customers on changes we've made and are planning on making during the upcoming fiscal year.

One of the most recent changes we've made is a new mailing address. Effective immediately, we will be sharing a post office box with the La Pine Water District. The new mailing address is PO Box 2460, La Pine, Oregon 97739. Please make sure you continue to make separate payments to each district until further notice. We will be working with the La Pine Water District to consolidate monthly billings to make things easier for our customers and staff.

At the beginning of the fiscal year 2007-2008, which begins July 1, 2007, we will be implementing a rate increase. With rising costs for everything from insurance to regular maintenance and supplies, it is necessary to implement this increase. The new rate for residential customers will be \$22.00 per month and the new rate for non-residential customers will be \$25.00 per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU). For all non-residential customers paying for more than one EDU, use the following formula to determine your current EDUs:

Current Monthly Rate \div by 24 = Current EDUs
(Example: $\$96.00 \div 24 = 4$)

Use this next formula to determine your new monthly rate:

Current EDUs \times 25 = New Monthly Rate
(Example: $4 \times 25 = \$100.00$)

You may also call the District office and Donna will help you determine your new rate.

In last year's annual letter, we told you we were going to raise our system development charge per EDU from \$3,810.00 to \$6,100.00. We explored many options and were able to instead raise it to \$5,700.00 per EDU. Please contact the District office for information on how we determine EDUs for non-residential

construction so you can work this into the cost of construction for any new business.

We would like to take this opportunity to go over District and customer responsibility associated with the sewer system. District responsibility begins at the disposal tank and extends to all lines and District-maintained pump stations, treatment plants, etc. Customer responsibility begins at the customer-side connection to the tank and extends to all lines and plumbing on and within the premises being served. Residential customers are typically on a 5-year pump schedule. Non-residential customers' pump schedules vary and are dependent upon the type of business being served. Beginning this fiscal year, we will be taking a closer look at pump frequency and the possible causes for tanks that require more frequent pumping. If the District determines the tank is being pumped too frequently because of customer neglect or misuse, we may institute a fee to cover the cost of pumping outside the regular pump schedule.

Here are some things to keep in mind while using the sewer system:

- Refrain from flushing things such as paper towels, diapers, baby wipes, feminine hygiene products or things of this nature as they can plug the sewer lines leading into the tank.
- Properly dispose of grease and oil by pouring it into an empty milk or juice jug, cap it tightly and put it in the trash. Pouring grease and oil down drains can also plug tanks and lines.
- If you use a garbage disposal please reconsider disposing of the following: egg shells, banana peels, cantaloupe seeds, etc as they can lead to more frequent pumping.

We are still in negotiations with BLM to acquire land to expand the lagoon system and add additional pivots for hay to dispose of the effluent.

Please remember that if you plan any changes to the usage of your property, CONSULT WITH US FIRST! There have been a number of people surprised by the cost of making changes that a simple phone call to our office could have avoided.

Our board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm at the Sewer District office located at 51490 Hinkle Way. Call a few days before the meeting if you wish to know the agenda items for a meeting. We hope to hear from you if you have any questions or concerns. You can contact us at 541-536-6236 or visit our website at www.lapinesewer.org to obtain copies of minutes and other pertinent information.

Sincerely,

Dennis Carter, Beverly Lawlor, Denise Ronek
La Pine Special Sewer District Board of Directors