

SALVATORE L. & GAIL E. SUNIGA

158 KINGS HIGHWAY

BOULDER CREEK, CALIFORNIA 95006

DAYTIME TELEPHONE: (650) 335-7290

April 9, 2009

Board of Supervisors Acting as the Board of Directors
of the Santa Cruz County Sanitation District – Service Area 7
701 Ocean Street, Room 410
Santa Cruz, California 95060

Re: Increased Charges for Sewer Service - Service Area 7, Boulder Creek

Dear Sir or Madam:

We recently received a Notice of Public Hearing on the proposed increase in sewer charges scheduled for May 12, 2009 (copy attached). We are unable to attend the hearing but feel we must comment on the proposed increase. We are truly shocked at the amount that the Sanitation District would like to assess our small condo.

Our condo is a 570 square foot one-bedroom unit, with only one tiny bathroom. The condo is very small. The sewer charge is way beyond what such a small unit should be paying and the proposed increase adversely impact condo owners more than owners of single family dwellings with more than one bathroom and two to three times the number of people living in it. This doesn't really compute - as a user tax, this special assessment should be structured to take into account the levels of sewer usage.

- First, we think condo units should be assessed at much less than single family units. We know that condos generally use from 25% to 35% less winter water than a single family dwellings and that winter water usage generally equates to sewer usage. Yet condo owners are paying only 9% less than owners of single family dwellings.
- Second, we think that increases in payments each year should apply at the same percentage for all owners – not a higher percentage for owners of the smallest units. The currently proposed increase is \$234 on a condo and only \$202 on a single family dwelling. This is backward. At the very least, shouldn't the fee paid by owners of single family dwellings increase at the same percentage as the fee paid by owners of condos?
- Third, all condos are not created equal. We think that larger condos should be assessed at a higher rate than the smaller condos. We know that some condos are much larger than ours, with two bathrooms, yet we are paying the same amount as the owners of these larger condos.

Finally, it seems that you are hearing from people with larger dwellings and not from those owning smaller units. We cannot be at your meeting in May, but feel this treatment should

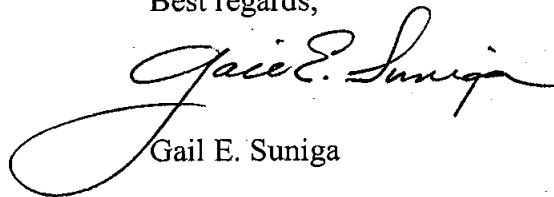
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be designed to be fairer to those who own small condos. If you would like to talk to me about this I can be reached at my daytime telephone number above. If you know of someone I should contact about this, please let me know.

Best regards,



Gail E. Suniga

cc: Ms. Rochelle Lather
Mr. Jeff Moxin

	ROUTE DATA	COPY	ATT.
1	DIRECTOR		
2	ASST. DIR. SPEC. SVCS.	✓	
	RECYCLING/SOLID WASTE		
	LANDFILL OPERATIONS		
	WATER CON/FLOOD CONT.		
	STORM WATER MANG.		
	CONSTRUCT. ENG.		
3	SANITATION ENG.	✓	
	WATER & WASTEWATER		
	ASST. DIR. TRANSPORT.		
	ROAD OPS. ENG.		
	PERMITS/ENCROACH.		
	DRAINAGE OPERATIONS		
	RD. MAINT. OPERATIONS		
	RDA ENG.		
	ROAD DESIGN ENG.		
	SURVEY/DEVELOPMT.		
	TRANSP/RD. PLANNING		
4	ASST. DIR. ADMIN. SVCS.	✓	
	REAL PROPERTY/FLEET		
	CSA / PRGM ADMIN.		
	SAFETY OFFICER/LIVE OAK P.		
	PERSONNEL / MIS		

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED INCREASED
CHARGES FOR SEWER SERVICES WITHIN COUNTY
SERVICE AREA NO. 7, BOULDER CREEK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors has scheduled a public hearing for Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. or thereafter in the Board Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, Room 525, Santa Cruz, California, to consider the adoption of a proposed resolution authorizing a charge for the purpose of providing funding for sewer services within County Service Area (CSA) No. 7, Boulder Creek. The charge for these services for the 2009/2010 fiscal year is proposed to be as follows:

	Existing Charges (2008/2009) <u>\$ Per Year</u>	Proposed Charges (2009/2010) <u>\$ Per Year</u>
Single Family Dwelling	\$1,481.50	\$1,684.38
Condominium	\$1,290.70	\$1,524.60
Commercial	\$884.98 per year plus \$6.62/HCF	\$1,180.54 per year plus \$5.54/HCF

For each fiscal year after 2009/2010, the property related charge may be increased by a percentage which does not exceed the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index, All Urban Consumers, for the San Francisco-Oakland Metropolitan Area, as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (or in any price index which replaces that index in the future), for the prior calendar year. The property related charge will be increased only when necessary to meet approved expenses and would not increase automatically each year. If in any year the property related charge is not increased, or is increased by an amount less than the increase in the Consumer Price Index, the difference between the rate of the increase in the property related charge and rate of increase in the Consumer Price Index will remain available for use in future years to raise the property related charge as necessary to meet approved expenses.

Notice is further given that at the time, date and place stated above, the Board of Supervisors shall hear and consider all objections or written protests, if any, against the proposed charges. If you have any questions regarding the proposed CSA related charges above, please call Eleanor Anderson at (831) 454-2790.

PLEASE NOTE:
AVOID SEWAGE SPILLS AND UNNECESSARY DAMAGE!

It is the property owner's responsibility to install and maintain an overflow or backflow protective device on your sewer lateral when any building's lowest floor elevation is less than one foot above the rim elevation of the nearest upstream manhole. For further information, please contact Calvin Smith at (831) 454-2801.

The County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Questions regarding accommodations under the ADA should be directed to the Clerk of the Board at (831) 454-2323.

Website: <http://www.dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/sanitation.htm>

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
By: Tess Fitzgerald, Chief Deputy Clerk