

UPPER BLUE SANITATION DISTRICT

UBSD



NEWS

JANUARY 2015

NO FEE INCREASES FOR 2015

The Board of Directors recently adopted the 2015 Budget and continued to hold the line on increasing fees. Both the Plant Investment Fee and the monthly service fee remain at the 2012 levels. The District operates with the philosophy of growth paying 100% of its own way and now has extended that direction well into the future. Careful implementation of the ten year Capital and Financial Master Plan has ensured that customers will only pay for the operation, maintenance and repair of the District's facilities at the lowest monthly sewer service fee in Summit County.

The District's philosophy of operating more like a business has paid off in the fact that we have been able to actually decrease the size of our government and pass those savings on to the customer. Keeping District administration services small while focusing on cross-training all field operators has allowed for an efficient, effective operation. This philosophy has allowed reduction in the number of District employees during a period of time that our facility capacity has more than doubled. The results are savings passed on to the customer.

NO PROPERTY TAX FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS

Did you know that for more than 20 years the Upper Blue Sanitation District has operated and constructed facilities without the use of a property tax? It's true! The Board of Directors and the Staff are committed to providing the highest levels of service and facilities through the use of fees such as plant investment fees (PIF) and monthly service charges.

FUTURE ISSUES ON THE HORIZON

The District constantly faces new challenges in providing cost-effective service. Day-to-day operating expenditures are always in focus. District staff face increasing costs of energy, fuel and chemicals, and with innovative thinking, keep operating expenditures as low as possible.

But what about the big issues facing the District? There are the new Nutrient Regulations that we are planning to meet by 2022. Costs to modify the Iowa Hill Water Reclamation Facility in order to meet the new nutrient requirements are expected to reach \$28 million. Farmer's Korner will also be impacted, to what extent is not known at this time. Protecting the District's water rights is paramount in treating wastewater at Farmer's Korner. Loss of these rights could have a significant cost impact. We are also keeping an eye on the proposed water plant below the discharge of Iowa Hill treatment facility. We are unsure of the regulatory impacts that could be imposed and we are continuing our research.

DISTRICT TRANSPARENCY NOTICE AND MEETING SCHEDULE

The District annually posts its Transparency Notice on the District's web site and at the administration office. This Notice outlines the District's contacts, meeting schedules, director information and election information. The Notice can be viewed at www.ubsd.org.

Meetings of the Board of Directors are held at 5:30 pm on the second Thursday of each month with a work session preceding each meeting. The meetings are conducted at the District's administration office which is located at 1605 Airport Road, Breckenridge and are open to the public.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Mike Turek, President

Barrie Stimson, Vice President

**Allyn Mosher, Secretary/
Treasurer**

Ken Trausch

Patricia Theobald

Andrew Carlberg,

District Manager

GREASE TRAP MAINTENANCE

The District's treatment facilities can treat most waste that is contributed to our system. However, grease and grease products are difficult to remove and cause many operational problems. We encourage homeowners to not dispose of grease down the drain. As for restaurants with grease traps, we require those businesses to clean the traps on a regular basis and submit the receipts of maintenance. In January of 2015 we will be contacting those businesses with grease traps for onsite inspections. If customers have any questions, we encourage you to contact our office.

HOW IS MY SEWER BILL CALCULATED?

A common question we receive is the method by which a sewer bill is calculated. First, all building units, either residential or commercial are based on a "single family equivalent," or "SFE." An SFE is defined as "the average characteristics of a home of a single family in a permanent residence in the District." Based on flow studies, a single family home contributes a peak flow of 300 gallons per day/per SFE, and this is the base upon which the District evaluates all other uses. For the purposes of determining the amount of SFEs assigned to residential units, the District uses the number of bedrooms and bathrooms contained in the unit. For instance, a detached, single family home with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms equals one SFE. If the number of bedrooms or bathrooms increases, there is a resulting increase in the amount of SFEs assigned to the home. The amount of calculated SFEs is then multiplied by \$78, which is the current cost per SFE, to equal your quarterly sewer charge. A detailed breakdown of SFE calculations can be found on the District's web site at www.ubsd.org.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Sewer backups due to failure of the District's main line are rare, but do occur. Usually the backup is due to a failure of the property's service line. Therefore, we recommend contacting a plumbing contractor initially. However, if there is concern that the problem is more than a failed service line, such as an overflow, then the best action is to contact the District by calling the emergency response phone. That number is **970-418-6073**. If for some reason that number does not reply, contact Summit County Dispatch at **970-668-8600**; they have a complete list of contact information.

BILLING MADE SIMPLE!

The District bills for service fees at the first of each quarter (January, April, July and October). The bill is due upon receipt, but the District accepts payment until the last day of the month for which the bill went out. If after the last day payment is not received, a reminder letter is sent advising that a 1% interest penalty will be added to the balance due if payment is not received within 15 days. If the account is still past due at the end of the next month, then additional charges and penalties will be added with the possibility of a lien filed on the property. A more detailed description is located on the back of the billing statement.

This is not a course the District likes to take and offers several suggestions. First, sign up for automatic payment or ACH. A form can be found at www.ubsd.org and ensures payment is received on time. Second, if you have your bank issuing a check we recommend that you have the check issued at least 1-1/2 weeks before the end of the month. This should allow the bank enough time to process the check so that the payment arrives on time. If you have any questions, please contact the District's administration office at 970-453-2723.

UPPER BLUE SANITATION DISTRICT

TELEPHONE: 970-453-2723

FAX: 970-453-2013

WWW.UBSD.ORG

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