

WaterSpots

Del Paso Manor Water District

September 2018



It Matters To You. It Matters To Us.



What is the “SYS MAINT CHG” on the water bill?

The District has received many calls asking about the “SMC” charge of the bill. The System Maintenance Charge (SMC Charge) began in 2010 as a way to be more transparent with what is included in your bi-monthly payment. The SMC Charge (SYS MAINT CHG or SMC on your bill) pays for debt service and/or projects that are related to our master plan. Many water districts refer to this charge as a Capital Improvement Charge. Since Del Paso Manor Water District’s service area is completely built out, the Board of Directors felt “system maintenance charge” was a more appropriate term to reflect where the money is going.

DEL PASO MANOR WATER DISTRICT		KEEP THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS		RETURN THIS STUB WITH PAYMENT	
1234 Main Drive, Ste 202 Sacramento, California 95844		DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
WATER BILL		PREV. BALANCE	0.00	PREV. BAL.	0.00
1234 MAIN STREET		CURRENT CHARG	70.40	CUR. CHG	70.40
JUL-AUG 2018		SYS MAINT CHG	16.10	SMC	16.10
ACCT# 567		TOTAL	116.50	TOTAL	116.50
MR. JOHN DOE 1234 MAIN STREET SACRAMENTO CA 95821				MR. JOHN DOE 1234 MAIN STREET SACRAMENTO CA	
				JUL-AUG 2018	

The Board listened to the ratepayer’s request to update the Master Plan before proposing a “System Maintenance” fee increase!

Master Plan Update Underway

Many ratepayers requested the Board update the master plan. The 2009 Master Plan will be updated.

The Master Plan was developed in 2009 and addressed the District’s aging infrastructure and future needs of the District. Although the aging infrastructure replacement needs have not changed, other elements have. In addition to planning the replacement of the aging pipelines and wells, the Board promised to look at “modernizing” the District. The modernization will look at modernizing the computer hardware, replacing the billing system, and incorporating new accounting software. Other modernization needs may also be discussed.

As stated, the Master Plan update is underway. At the September 2018 Board meeting, the Board discussed the elements that require discussion or that the Master Plan update needs to address. We will work diligently on updating those elements over the next year. We will have multiple community meetings throughout to allow for community input and to keep ratepayers apprised of the progress. We encourage you to attend these meetings for your voice to be heard!

Please watch for newsletters and signage for the community meetings. Also, keep looking at our website, www.delpasomanorwd.org, for updates!

Ken



CONSERVATION CORNER Ken's Fall Tips

Fall is here! It's time to cut your landscape water use. With the cooler weather, turn off your automatic systems and only water when necessary or reprogram to water only one time per week until the rainy season begins.

Here are Ken's tips:

Let it soak — Give your plants fewer, heavy soakings. If you must use sprinklers, only use them in the morning.

Let it grow — Allow your grass to grow longer and apply mulch to landscape areas to retain moisture.

Add mulch — Apply mulch to the base of trees and shrubs to also retain moisture

Eliminate leaks — According to EPA, a single 1/32" diameter leak on a hose, emitter or outdoor faucet can waste more than 6,000 gallons of water a year. Put leak inspections on your weekly "to do" list.

Don't forget, you can get more tips at www.BeWaterSmart.info.

HELP US BUILD OUR DATABASE!

We are still collecting email addresses and phone numbers. Please share this information on the back of your payment receipt. Thanks!

Updates about Well #3

In April, we reported that 1,2,3-Trichloropropane was detected in Well #3 above the newly adopted maximum contaminant level. In response, we immediately took the well offline to prohibit water from entering the distribution system until we could work with the State Water Resource Control Board on a solution.

The District needs the capacity of this well in order to meet fire flow requirements for the District. Working with the State Water Resource Control Board, Division of Drinking Water it was determined the best solution for this well, at this time, was to put the well into "standby" status. This will allow the District to operate the well for emergency use on a very limited basis. The District will only operate Well #3 under emergency conditions when other wells in the system are unable to meet the system demand.

2017-18 Legislative Update: Water Tax to be revisited next session

Each year, multiple water-related bills are introduced into the state legislators. Many of the bills affect Del Paso Manor Water and its ratepayers. Our general manager spends countless hours tracking bills that can have an impact to Del Paso Manor Water.

During the 2017-18 legislative season, there were several bills that would significantly increase costs to the District which would result in higher rates for ratepayers. The most significant bill was SB623. This bill would have created a mandatory water tax to be included on each ratepayer's water bill.

The traction of SB623 stopped due to budget trailer bill SB845 which was introduced on August 16. The focus of SB845 and SB845 was to implement a tax to address unsafe drinking water, such as high nitrates, in disadvantaged communities throughout the state.

The budget trailer bill, SB845, closely mirrored SB623. The financial difference in SB623 and SB845 was the tax implemented would change from a mandatory payment to a voluntary donation. SB845 stated that each water agency would be required to show a specified voluntary donation on monthly water bills and then keep track of what was actually donated and collected. This new accounting practice would have required the District, and other California water agencies, to update their billing systems as well as add additional staff to keep track of individual contributions. The controversial bill was not passed on the very last day of session, August 31. Instead, a committee was appointed to look into developing a way to fund statewide safe drinking water solutions. We expect to see more bills during the next legislative cycle addressing safe drinking water issues.

Stay Informed And Engage With Us



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Lori

