



# MAY INFORMATION SHEET

Presented by the Rosamond Community Services District for their valued customers. If you would like more information, or have suggestions for future information sheets, please let us know by calling 661-256-3411.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR OUR CUSTOMERS

### RCSD Office now open Fridays

Beginning on Friday, May 8th, the RCSD office will now be open Monday through Friday each week, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We hope these new hours will make your business with us that much more convenient.

### Sewer fees returning to water bills

At RCSD we do our best to create and enact policies that benefit our community as a whole. One recent example of this was moving the collection of sewer fees from water bills to tax bills. This allowed RCSD to collect sewer fees from all properties connected to the system, not just those currently occupied. This would help close a shortfall in sewer funding.

Following a great deal of public input on the matter, both for and against the change, the RCSD board of directors has voted to once again collect sewer fees on water bills.

This will not change the amount of the sewer fee, but will change the way the fee is collected.

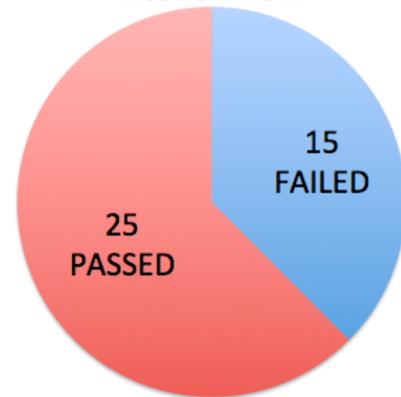
**It is anticipated that sewer fees will begin being collected on RCSD water bills starting July 1, 2015.** Beginning on that date, RCSD customers can expect to see their total water bill to increase by about \$39.80 to include the sewer fees.

### Street light update

Think back to 1969. How much has changed since then? In 1969 the average cost of gas

### Not a clear cut issue

RESULTS BY ZONE



Of the 40 lighting zones created, 25 passed the new lighting fees and kept the lights on.

was \$0.35 a gallon and you could expect to pay around \$3,300 for a mid-range car. 1969 was also the year that RCSD established Rosamond's lighting fee at \$1.00, to pay for the community's street lights.

Since 1969 prices have gone up, including the price of electricity. Not only that, but inflation has made our money worth less. In fact, just to keep up with inflation, RCSD would have to raise the original lighting fee by almost 640%.\*

However, the lighting fee on RCSD water bills was not changed, despite inflation, increases in *(continued)*

**Rosamond Community Services District**  
3179 35th Street West, Rosamond CA 93560  
Monday - Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm  
(661) 256-3411 - [rosamondcsd.com](http://rosamondcsd.com)

**Upcoming RCSD Meetings**  
May 13 - 7:00pm  
May 27 - 7:00pm  
at the RCSD Offices

## ROSAMOND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT - MAY INFORMATION SHEET

costs and an increase in Rosamond's population.

As time went on, the \$1.00 fee just didn't go as far as it used to. A few years ago, the cost of lighting began to exceed the amount of money brought in by the lighting fee. This left our community with two options:

*1. Increase lighting fees to cover the ever increasing cost associated with street lighting.*

*2. Stop paying for neighborhood street lighting and let our neighborhoods go dark.*

The RCSD team came up with a plan that would fairly provide lighting for the community as a whole, while allowing individual neighborhoods to decide to keep their lights on by paying for them, or to not pay and allow Southern California Edison end street light service in their neighborhood.

Following the law set by California Proposition 218, RCSD annexed 40 new zones into the existing landscape and lighting assessment midway through 2014. Residents in these zones were asked to vote on accepting the new lighting fees to keep the lights on, or reject them and enjoy dark rural nights. The original \$1 lighting fee would be maintained to pay for street lighting on Rosamond's main community roads because no other funding source for these lights exist at this time.

This plan was fair in that it allowed the entire community to pay for lighting the main community roads that everyone uses, while letting individual neighborhoods decide if they want to pay to light their own streets.

This plan and the community vote were both heavily discussed in seven different board and public meetings and were covered extensively in the local newspapers. Despite this publicity, very few people came out to cast ballots. In the end, only 1,196 property owners cast their votes. Out of the 40 new zones created and annexed, 25 voted to keep the lights on and 15 zones voted to not pay for the lights.

After the vote RCSD began the process with Southern California Edison to stop paying for street lighting in the 15 zones that voted to go dark. The owners of the poles and lights, Southern California Edison, were in charge of what would happen next. They had only recently begun turning lights off as a result of the legal ballot in 2014. With lights turning off, some members of our community began to be concerned.

After revisiting the issue, under the direction of our Board, a new discovery was made. Despite our best efforts, RCSD received erroneous legal advice regarding our ability to place the lighting fee on water/sewer bills.

Information originally communicated to us actually pertained to cities, which Rosamond is not. With this new knowledge, our team will now be able to place the lighting fees on the water/sewer bill. This will give us much more flexibility to configure a fair lighting fee structure for our entire community.

How would you handle this situation? Would you like to share your opinion or experience on this matter? Please write a letter to us or attend one of our regularly scheduled board meetings. (Our mailing address and upcoming meetings are at the bottom of this sheet)

*[http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation\\_calculator.htm](http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm)*

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