

NEWS FROM THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO WATER DEPARTMENT

## Money raised by rate increase will go towards upgrading systems

On April 30, 2002, the San Diego Mayor and City Council approved a series of 6 percent rate increases designed to upgrade, expand and maintain aging water storage, treatment and delivery systems.

The package called for a series of five increases. The first took place on July 1, 2002, with the third taking place on July 1, 2004. The first bill you received after July 1, 2004, was prorated incorporating both the old and new rates.

While each of these increases will raise overall revenue to the Water Department 6 percent, the percentage each customer's bill will increase will vary depending upon the amount of water used (please see table at right). The reason for this is that half of the increased revenue is coming from the base fee and half is coming from the commodity (or water used) charges. Therefore the base fee cost of your water bill is now a larger proportion of the overall bill than it had been previously.

So, a customer using 8 hundred cubic feet (one HCF is equivalent to 748 gallons) in a billing period will see an increase of \$1.66 which is an increase of 7 percent. But, somebody who uses 25 HCF will see their bill go up \$3.09 although their total bill increases only 5.5 percent.

In San Diego, the average single-family customer uses about 14 HCF a month. Those customers will have about a 6 percent increase, roughly equal to the overall revenue increase.

A large portion of these increases is going towards the Capital Improvements

### *New Single-Family Domestic Rates*

**IMPORTANT NOTE: THIS TABLE IS BASED ON ONE MONTH'S USAGE.**

|                        | <u>PREVIOUSLY</u> | <u>JULY 1, 2004</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Base Fee               | \$11.93           | \$13.08             |
| First 7 HCF billed at: | \$ 1.425          | \$ 1.487            |
| 8-14 HCF billed at:    | \$ 1.805          | \$ 1.884            |
| 15+ HCF billed at:     | \$ 1.989          | \$ 2.076            |

To determine your bill, simply add the base fee to the charge for water used. For examples of typical water bill increases, please see the table below. The average customer in San Diego uses about 14 HCF per month.

|                      | <u>PREVIOUSLY</u> | <u>JULY 1, 2004</u> | <u>\$ INCREASE</u> | <u>% INCREASE</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Total bill at 4 HCF  | \$17.63           | \$19.03             | \$1.40             | 7.9%              |
| Total bill at 8 HCF  | \$23.71           | \$25.37             | \$1.66             | 7.0%              |
| Total bill at 14 HCF | \$34.54           | \$36.68             | \$2.14             | 6.2%              |
| Total bill at 25 HCF | \$56.42           | \$59.51             | \$3.09             | 5.5%              |

**In all other customer classes the commodity charge is increasing from \$1.664 per HCF to \$1.737 per HCF. For the new monthly base fees, which are determined by meter size, please check your bill or visit our web pages at: [www.sandiego.gov/water](http://www.sandiego.gov/water).**

Program, which was created to ensure San Diego continues to have safe and reliable water systems. Also, part of this increase, for the first time in more than a decade, is going to the operations and maintenance sections within the Water Department.

For more information about the new water rates or the new monthly billing system, please contact a Water Department Customer Service Representative at (619) 515-3500, or visit our website at: [www.sandiego.gov/water](http://www.sandiego.gov/water).

# Children show creativity in Poster Contest

The annual Water Conservation Poster Contest provides a focal point for teachers to talk with their students about the importance of conserving water. This year's theme, "Water... Use it Wisely," gave thousands of students the opportunity to artistically illustrate meaningful water conservation messages.

The winners received their awards during a San Diego City Council meeting. This year's winners were:

**First Grade:** 1. Katelyn Adelman, Hearst Elementary; 2. Kian Bagheri, Hearst Elementary; 3. Michael Cao, Hearst Elementary.

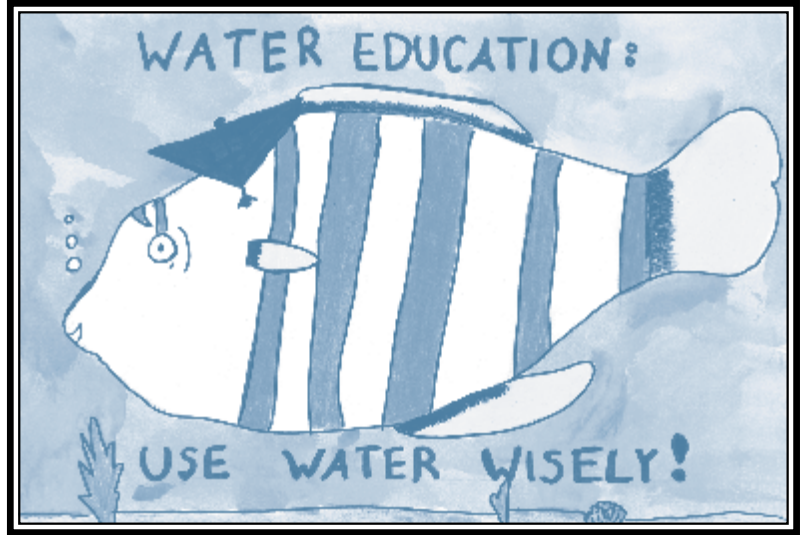
**Second Grade:** 1. Maren Hale, Silver Gate; 2. Amra Kolenovic, Silver Gate; 3. Alexander Stein, Silver Gate.

**Third Grade:** 1. Michael Jarrell, homeschool; 2. Caitlyn Kellogg, The Living School; 3. Amber Knight, Holmes Elementary.

**Fourth Grade:** 1. Jodi Adair, Mendoza Elementary; 2. Charmaine Ong, Sandburg Elementary; 3. Amy Ishiguro, La Jolla Elementary.

**Fifth Grade:** 1. Natalie Cotton, Good Shepherd School; 2. Aleksandra Lindgren, St. Didacus School; 3. Seo Young Kim, Curie Elementary.

**Sixth Grade:** 1. Olivia DelleTorri, Black Mountain Middle School; 2. Chi Pham, Mesa Verde Middle School; 3. Tiffanie Mang, Mesa Verde Middle School.



Caitlyn Kellogg's wise fish earned her a second place award for third graders.

## New sewer rate structure approved

On June 8, 2004, the City of San Diego City Council adopted a new sewer rate structure. The actual implementation of the revised fees and charges will occur on October 1, 2004. Revenues derived from sewer fees and charges are used solely for the purpose of defraying costs incurred by the sewer system which include sewage transportation, treatment and disposal, facilities and equipment maintenance, capital projects and related financing.

The new rate structure provides for a more equitable distribution of costs among the various classifications of sewer customers.

As a result of this new rate structure, all single-family domestic customers will see a decrease in their monthly sewer bill. For these customers, an individualized sewer rate is determined by the amount of water usage during the winter months. As an example, a customer with a moderate winter water consumption of 10 hundred cubic feet (HCF, one of which is equal to 748 gallons) will see their monthly bill decrease from \$47.15 to \$36.16 per month.


Multi-family customers will see an increase in their bills. The base fee for these customers will go from .63 cents per month

to \$10.53 per month (which is the same base fee as the single-family domestic customers). The sewer rate per HCF used will increase slightly from \$3.366 to \$3.461.


Depending on the type of business, commercial/industrial class customers could potentially see the biggest changes in their sewer bills. Customers in this class will now have another variable which will help determine their bill more accurately.

This variable, Chemical Oxygen Demand, will also help the City meet certain requirements of the Clean Water Grant Program and the State Water Resources Control Board's State Revolving Fund Loan Program.

Commercial/industrial class customers with questions about their new sewer rate should call a Customer Service Representative at 619-515-3500.



### Important Water Department numbers



|  |          |
|--|----------|
| To report a water line break or a sewer overflow.....        | 515-3525 |
| To ask a question about your water or sewer bill.....        | 515-3500 |
| To find out where you can pay your bill.....                 | 515-3500 |
| For Water Conservation Program information.....              | 515-3500 |
| To establish or cancel water or sewer services.....          | 515-3500 |
| To ask about San Diego's drinking water.....                 | 668-3232 |
| For Lakes Recreation Program information.....                | 465-3474 |
| To schedule a presentation through the Speaker's Bureau..... | 533-6638 |
| To ask the location of a City water or sewer line.....       | 527-7482 |
| Capital Improvements Projects Hotline.....                   | 533-4679 |
| San Diego City Lakes Hotline.....                            | 465-3474 |
| To report water theft from the Water Department .....        | 533-4146 |

(All phone numbers are 619 area code)