

The Bay Area Citizen

Clear Lake City Water Authority raising its rates

By [MARY ALYS CHERRY](#) | Posted: Tuesday, January 10, 2012 2:51 pm

The Clear Lake City Water Authority, which has the lowest rates in the area, is raising its water and sewer rates, effective with its December 2011 bill.

“Unfortunately, the record breaking 2011 drought and subsequent ground movement damage cost to our lines were greater than the increase in water usage revenue,” CLCWA General Manager James Byrd said in making the announcement.

“In addition, the water treatment costs at the Southeast Water Treatment Plant significantly increased along with sewage treatment plant costs.”

The average water usage of CLCWA customers is around 10,000 gallons a month, the water authority said, adding that its sewer charges are based on a percentage of the water usage. Customers using the average will see their water and sewer costs rise from \$25.52 to \$36.83 on a monthly basis, CLCWA explained.

WHAT OTHERS CHARGE

For that same amount of water and sewer service in other cities, one will pay \$97.41 in Houston, \$94.65 in League City and South Shore Harbour, \$77 in Nassau Bay, \$67 in Kemah, \$66.72 in Webster, \$65.01 in Friendswood, \$60.93 in Pasadena and \$43.90 in El Lago, according to a CLCWA study of existing rates in November 2011.

“Costs have increased over the last few years and we have managed to avoid passing on those costs previously by closely managing our expenses to find better efficiencies,” Board President Gayle Yoder explained. “You finally reach a point that rates have to be increased. Our employees have done a great job running a lean and efficient operation.”

EVERY OTHER MONTH

“As part of our effort to keep meter reading costs down, we only read meters and bill every two months so the invoices our customers receive are for two months service.” said board member John Ferguson.

A comparison of rates of other entities providing water and sewer services in Harris and Galveston Counties is posted on the authority website at www.clewa.org

“For our customers living within the city limits of Houston, the average monthly water and sewer charges of \$36.83 would cost \$97.41 if there were no CLCWA, so I think our customers are getting a great value.” board member Bob Savely pointed out.

GOOD STEWARD

The CLCWA works hard to be a good steward of the resident's money, board member John Branch added.

“Since the board decided over 15 years ago that it was a priority to have an annual infrastructure upgrade schedule, we have ensured that our revenue stream allowed us to continue the preventive maintenance program to give us one of the best maintained systems in the state.”

“I hope that all of our customers take the time to visit the CLCWA website and compare our new rates to nearby entities. They will be amazed at the bargain they are getting,” board member Vince Johnson added.