

Sewer Rates To Nearly Double*

***Unless You say NO to the 94% increase!**

Jackson has to **improve the sewer plant to meet State health and safety regulations**. That will require an increase in rates, but **not as much as the City Council is asking**.

Capacity That Does You No Good

The engineering firm hired by the City **estimates it will cost \$12 million** to upgrade the plant. But that estimate is based on **a plant with 50% more capacity than is needed to serve Jackson¹**.

No estimate was made of the cost to upgrade the plant **without the additional capacity** beyond what Jackson residents are currently using.

False Reports

The engineering firm claims **that Jackson is rapidly growing**, and implies that its information comes from the State Department of Finance.

A different firm did the rate study, also based on Department of Finance. But **the rate study says Jackson's population has declined for each of the last 5 years**.

Which is right? It is **the engineering report that is false**. The rate study used the same numbers published by the State, but the engineering report is based on a 2008 estimate made for "planning purposes", and **inflated the State's estimates just to make it seem that a bigger plant was needed**.

The City has ignored that discrepancy and is basing your rates on the false engineering study.

Proposition 218 Protest

The Constitution gives you the right to protect yourself. **If a majority of ratepayers protest the rate increase**, the City Council will have to disclose what it will cost to upgrade the plant without providing for 50% more residents.

An upgrade is necessary, but you do not have to pay for more than you need³.

All you have to do is write your address on the protest form and sign your name. **If you do nothing, you will be paying for something you do not need and can never use**.

For further information, contact the Ratepayer Protection Alliance at amadorwatchdog.org.

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Notes from page 1

1) 50% more capacity. The engineering report, (“City of Jackson Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements”), in section 3.3 (Summary of Existing and Future Flows and Loads) on page 18, says the plant capacity is based on 1,421 pounds of biodegradable solids per day. The report does not say what is currently used; only that current use is “nearly” 1,000 pounds per day. Therefore the increase is greater than 43% and may be greater than 50%.

2) False report. Section 2.3 (Population Trends), on page 8 of the engineering report says “The City uses California Department of Finance (DOF) estimates as the basis for their population and for projecting potential growth within their community. ... The population projections are based on an annual growth rate of 1.33% as presented in the City’s current (2008) General Plan Land Use Element.” The engineering firm was hired to make an estimate for 2014, not for 2008, when the economy was very different. The rate study actually uses current DOF data and reports that Jackson’s population has declined for the last 5 years.

3) Upgrade necessary. Jackson is under a compliance order from the Central Valley Regional Water Board to eliminate various pollutants currently being discharged from the wastewater treatment facility. That has been going on for 15 years and Jackson has been fined several times. The fines do not go to State coffers, but are used to pay for the improvements needed to eliminate the pollution.

Who Pays? It would be irresponsible to not make the needed improvements, although if the ratepayers refuse to accept a rate increase, the City would just have to find another source of funds. What is responsible for ratepayers to do, in fact the only mature and responsible action we can take, is to disapprove the current rate increase and thereby demand that the City Council first determine what it will cost to upgrade the plant as it is currently being used. If it is necessary to build additional capacity, even though Jackson is currently shrinking, not growing, then the Council must explain how future users will certainly compensate you and the other current users.

Mail To:

RPA
PO Box 51
Pine Grove, CA 95665

I, the undersigned, do hereby protest the sewer rate increase proposed on August 11, 2014.

Name (print) _____

Address _____ Jackson, CA

Signature _____