



**MODESTO**  
CALIFORNIA

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CITY OF MODESTO

# City Beat

**JUNE 2012**

## Pre-Approved Water Rate Increase Set for July

In order to ensure the integrity of the City of Modesto's drinking water system, water customers will see a slight rate increase on their bill beginning July 1, 2012.

In 2004, the Modesto City Council approved a series of rate increases to fund improvements to the water system and expand the Regional Water Treatment Plant. With the increase beginning in July of this year, flat-rate residential customers will see an average increase of \$1.36 per month. Metered customers may experience a slightly different amount based on the amount of water they use in a given month. This 3.1% rate increase is based on inflation as of December 2011, which is the standard used when implementing inflationary rate increases such as this.

Water rates pay for the cost of delivering water to our customers. This particular rate increase is necessary to pay for routine inflationary cost increases that have occurred since our last inflationary rate increase in July 2011. Any rate increase delayed now would result in a larger increase in the future; this increase helps smooth the preapproved rate increases over time. In addition, our Water Utility staff has taken several steps over the past several years to help reduce costs including adjusting the Capital Improvement Program to focus only on critical projects, as well as the streamlining of operations.

For questions regarding your utility bill, please contact the City of Modesto Customer Service Division at (209) 577-5395.

## Wastewater Rate Increase

In an effort to comply with the state wastewater regulatory mandates, City of Modesto customers will see a wastewater rate increase on their water/sewer/garbage bill beginning July 1 2012. In 2010, the Modesto City Council approved a series of rate increases to fund the construction of the Phase 2 Tertiary Treatment facilities as well as improvements to the wastewater system as a whole. In a recent 2012 review, Council adopted a revised plan that lowered the initial rate increase from 9% to 7%.

Residential customers can expect to experience an average increase of \$1.85 per month. This rate increase largely funds the Phase 2 Tertiary Treatment facilities that will meet very stringent State water quality requirements, as well as provide the flexibility to discharge the high quality treated water to the San Joaquin River year-round, or provide recycled water for various purposes. The rate increase also allows the City to meet its obligation to serve its wastewater customers and protect the environment by complying with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program requirements.

It is important to note that any rate increase delayed now would result in a larger increase in the future; this incremental increase helps smooth rate increases over time. City staff has worked diligently to reduce costs up to and including the securing of a State Revolving Fund, low-interest loan to finance the Phase 2 Tertiary Treatment Project, which includes a principle forgiveness program.

For more information or concerns, please contact the City of Modesto Customer Service Division at (209) 577-5395.

### \*\*IMPORTANT INFORMATION\*\*

### HOLIDAY GARBAGE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

In observance of Independence Day there will be no garbage collection on Wednesday, July 4.

Garbage collection service will run ONE day late Wednesday, July 4 thru Friday, July 6.

## Garbage Rate Increase Being Considered for July

This month, the Modesto City Council will consider approving adjustments to the maximum rate schedule for City of Modesto residential, commercial and drop box garbage collection services to take effect July 1, 2012. While the City does not set the actual rate the garbage companies can charge to pick up garbage, it does put a cap on the rate that can be charged for each type of service provided by the companies.

Maximum rate changes take place when costs go up or down. The garbage companies are required to submit financial data and a formal request for consideration of adjustments to the maximum rate. The rate adjustments are based on the data provided as well as quarterly fuel prices, the disposal fee at the Waste-to-Energy Facility as well as the fee for AB 939 Green Waste Diversions. The proposed new rate for residential garbage collection is \$26.73 per month, a \$1.94 increase over the current rate. The City of Modesto has among the lowest monthly rates in the region for the level of services provided thanks to our local garbage collection companies providing highly efficient, cost competitive services. It is because of these competitive rates that the City is able to provide residents with more capacity than other communities in our region, including the following as standard residential service:

- One black 96-gallon can for garbage
- One green 96-gallon can for yard waste, food, paper, and other household organic materials
- Food waste containers
- Twice-per-year on-call bulky item collection
- Removal of illegally dumped items in streets and alleys
- Drop-off of old TV and computer tubes

Rates for commercial bin service and drop box service will also increase on July 1, 2012. The proposed new maximum rate for a 2-yard bin picked up once per week is \$60.34. The proposed per pick-up charge for large drop boxes is \$246.60 (disposal costs for the contents of drop boxes is negotiated between the customer and the garbage company).

Questions about garbage services or the rate increase? Contact the Solid Waste Division at (209) 577-5494.



**BRING IN A USED OIL FILTER ON ANY SATURDAY OR SUNDAY DURING THE MONTH OF JULY AND GET A NEW ONE – FREE\*!**

**Offer good at participating O'Reilly and AutoZone auto parts stores. For details call 577-5493.**

#### Conditions:

- Limit one filter per person per event
- Maximum filter value cannot exceed \$14.99
- Passenger vehicle and light truck filters only
- Individuals only, no businesses may participate
- Replacement oil filters shall be "off the shelf" and of standard quality
- Replacement filters are limited to stock on-hand, no special orders
  - No premium oil filters will be issued
- Filters may not be returned for refund and may only be exchanged for another oil filter



## High Efficiency Toilet Residential Rebate Program

City of Modesto Residential Customers in Single and Multi-Family homes may be eligible for rebates when they replace their old high-water-use toilets.

For a qualifying list of toilets, please visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/watersense/products/toilets.html> or call 209.342.2262.



Replacing a high water-use toilet with a HET of 1.28 gpf can save 38 gallons of water each day. A HET uses 20% less water per flush than HLFT models.

Efficiency measures such as replacing water guzzling toilets with the latest in low-flush toilet technology helps

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sure the future water supply is adequate and helps maintain low water rates.

For more information on this program and other ways to conserve water, visit: [www.modestogov.com/pwd/utilities/water/conservation](http://www.modestogov.com/pwd/utilities/water/conservation).