

CRRUA Customer Message

Date: 05-13-2024

Utility Rates Corrective Action

For nearly five years, the Camino Real Regional Utility Authority (CRRUA) has not adjusted rates for water and wastewater services to its customers in Sunland Park and Santa Teresa, NM. The last rate increase was implemented on July 1, 2019.

At a special meeting on February 11, 2019, the CRRUA board of directors at the time approved a rate structure that included a provision for various rates for water and wastewater to be automatically increased over the following four years at either fixed percentages of 1.5%, 6%, and in some instances aligned with the consumer price index (CPI) over that period of time.

However, *the rate adjustments approved by the board in 2019 were never implemented under the previous administration.* As a result, the 2019 rate structure currently in place is not sufficient to meet CRRUA's operating costs including system maintenance, preventative maintenance, upgrades, government compliance and staffing.

In order to comply with the rate structure approved by the previous CRRUA board in 2019, the current board took corrective action at its regular meeting on May 13, 2024, by directing CRRUA administration to make corrections and adjustments to current water and wastewater rates beginning on July 1, 2024.

Residential Water Rates

<u>Current</u>	<u>New</u>	
\$15.00	\$17.83	First 3,000 gallons

Residential Wastewater Rates

<u>Current</u>	<u>New</u>	
\$20.62	\$27.00	Minimum on first 7,000 gallons

Non-residential Water Rates

Base Rate up to 3,000 Gallons	Commercial	Industrial	Institutional	Bulk
<u>Current</u>	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$70.00
<u>New</u>	\$53.07	\$106.14	\$53.07	\$74.30

Non-residential Wastewater Rates

Base Rate up to 7,000 Gallons	Commercial	Industrial	Institutional	Bulk
<u>Current</u>	\$77.08	\$77.08	\$77.08	n/a
<u>New</u>	\$81.51	\$81.51	\$81.51	n/a

“CRRUA’s infrastructure has a total replacement cost of \$81.5 million.” said CRRUA executive director Juan Carlos Crosby. “The additional revenue received from the rate correction will be used to help ensure the health, safety, and welfare of customers.”

Crosby said benefits to customers include:

- Keeping arsenic levels in water within the federal limit of 10 parts per billion (ppb.)

- Minimizing the causes of discolored and smelly water.
- Reduce water line breaks.
- Reduce and possibly eliminate pump failures that lead to low water levels.
- Maintaining an uninterrupted flow of clean, clear water.

Crosby said CRRUA's operating costs have increased with inflation and revenues from the rate correction will help keep up with rising costs and will help recruit and compensate qualified operational staff whose current pay is considerably below market for several positions.