

Written Public Comment  
for May 19, 2020 Regular Meeting

First Name	Last Name	Group or Organization Affiliation	Address	Phone Number	Public Comment
Donna	Myers				So many of our fellow citizens are experiencing economic devastation; to increase water/sewer prices right now should be unthinkable at this time. I hope you reconsider your proposal.
Lisa	Perry				I'm sorry, but no. You do not need a 3% increase in July of 2020. If you need additional funds, please adjust your budget like everyone else has to. I realize you cannot obtain a second job like some of us do, so you may want to increase the percentage you charge to the new construction in the area. Those locations havent paid for anything of substance. Thank you
Pat	McCormick	Owner of evergreen court apartment	5632 SE 15th ave	5035483130	This seems to be a terrible time to raise rates when my renter's are struggling to pay rents.

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Brian	Keechle		17375 SE Pilgrim CT	15033603612	<p>I would like to pose the question to the board, if payment plans are an option, then why not just have a payment plan in place rather than developing an emergency fund? If the emergency fund is an in-house account for current customers, what difference would it make by putting those customers on a deferred payment program rather than financing a zero interest payment. I think in times like these the last thing a public utility should be doing is trapping customers that have no other option into a credit quandary. If someone is capable of paying, and refusing to pay the time-honored tradition of shutting their water off is the best way to get results. But if you do have a family that is going through a financial hardship and will have an extended period of low-income, it would probably be in the best interest of all to not have a</p>
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Don	Draper		5625 SE Colony Circle, Milwaukie 97267		I find the provided information unsatisfactory to support the proposal. {The rate increase is in response to increasing costs due to inflation, renewal and replacement of aging infrastructure, and to fund an Emergency Customer Assistance Program}. Perhaps if there was a breakdown of costs for inflation, renewal & replacement of infrastructure and the assistance program I could be better informed and make a decision one way or the other as to the appropriateness for requesting a fee increase.
Sharon	Williams		1700 S.E. Windy Lane	503-653-8860	Timing isn't good right now...I own my own home, but with taxes, your rates, power, etc. I'm about to have to sell to afford to live....IF MY HUSBAND DIES B/4 ME, I
Sharon	Williams		1700 S.E. Windy Lane	503-653-8860	(computer submitted it when I went back to correct a spelling error...) like I was saying, IF my husband dies b/4 me...I won't be able to afford to live in the home I've lived in for 35 years. Living on my Social Security only ..SAD!  It may not seem much to those that are working (the increase) but to us on fixed incomes, it's hard!
Lanakila	Achong				NO!
Shelly	Miller		22062 S Ferguson Road	5034213628	I object to this price increase. We paid over \$100.00 a month for water in 2019 for a 2 bedroom 1 bath home.

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DAVID	LUNDSTROM		17733 SE COOK STREET	5033478565	<p>In a time when everyone is struggling to pay bills Oak Lodge Water Services want to increase the cost of our utilities??</p> <p>Are you kidding me?</p> <p>How many of us are out of work, and have NOT yet received our unemployment?</p> <p>I m one of those people!</p> <p>We do not need improvements at the moment!</p> <p>I am not going around upgrading anything in my house, why should Oak Lodge be trying to do upgrades at this time?</p> <p>We do not need a Emergency Assistance program because we CANNOT AFFORD IT!</p> <p>Bills need to be as few and as small as possible until this pandemic is over with, and people are back to work!</p> <p>The idea of price increases during this time is down right Stupidity!</p>
Daniel	Ford		13108 SE Laurie Avenue	503-504-1137	<p>I believe such a rate increase is in poor form in the current pandemic situation with countless of your customers suffering right now with no income/wages, or less hours. This is not the time for a rate increase and request you withhold such until the ecomony recovers and people go back to work again.</p>
Charles	Tiller		4793 se glen echo ave Milwaukie Or 97267	503-866-1711	<p>This is absolutely absurd that there is even a purposed rate increase. We already have one of the highest costs of water and sewer in proximity, and we don't get anything to show for it. There is no circumstance where I would even remotely support this. Shame on you oak lodge water!</p>

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Hannah	Mazzola				Please do not enact this 3% increase. We, the people, are already having financial struggles as it is. So, even though 3% isn't much, on top of everything else...this does not help us at all. Please find another way to gain the budget that you need. It is not fair that we working class people keep getting increases on every little thing. Please make it stop because the little additions make a big impression.
Dan	Ford		13100 SE Laurie Avenue	503-850-4498	I do not think at this time, with the pandemic situation, rising unemployment and your customers experiencing significant difficulties that this is the appropriate time to request a rate increase.
Daryl	Clendenin		14421 SE Jupiter Ct	5032857431	As seniors on fixed income, utilities are already a burden on us that don't have a lot of hope for increases of income. Please don't do this, but If you must, please find a way to exclude the Geritol for lunch bunch.
Kelsy	Fenton		13650 SE Briggs St Portland, OR 97222 United States	503-298-0643	I truly believe these are hard times for every one but increasing a utility bill is going to put hardship on families in already hard times. Water and sewer use is documented and We are billed for that use age so why would an increase . If these increases become effective it will be unfair for those who don't use as much water as others. Bill accordingly don't make it harder for others to pay bills

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Julia	Vinciguerra		12525 SE 25th Ave	9072279904	I absolutely disagree with the decision to increase by 3%. The water already costs the highest I've ever paid. Not all salaries/wages are keeping up with "inflation" and as far as an emergency relief fund, not all qualify for that. I vote NO for the increase.
Michael	Dinh		13780 SE Linden Ln	214-868-9991	No. I don't want an increase in the bill by 3%. Stop using this pandemic emergency to jack up rates. Don't try to become Multnomah County water bureau where the charges are excessive. If y'all want to be paid more go work for the criminals there.
Rory	Alcott		15829 SE Creswain Ave, Milwaukie, OR 97267		My family's water and sewer bill is already incredibly high compared to other places in the country, many of which don't have an ample supply of rivers nearby. Please don't raise our rates even more.

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Tom	Jenne		4411 SE Glen Echo Ave	503-750-5876	<p>I will simply say I am opposed to any rate increase.</p> <p>I grew up and live now in my childhood home in the district which our family has maintained this home since 1952. I had always appreciated the consistent service and reliable attention to repair issues that was dispensed from the two independent agencies in this wonderful little community by the river. It's a very old and special place. I laughed out loud when the idea was hatched years ago to combine the agencies and "benefit from all kinds of efficiencies which will lead to significant cost savings and blah blah blah..." (loosely paraphrased). Having not just fallen off a turnip truck, I voted no throughout the whole process. One only has to look at the clown show at the Portland water bureau to recognize what that would look like.</p> <p>Well, fast forward to now and <u>we can see that none of these</u></p>
Melody	Irby		3881 SE Sunset Ct		<p>Raising of rates in July would not be beneficial to any of the customers in the service area.</p> <p>A majority of customers a living without jobs at this time.</p> <p>Raising rates would not normally bother me, but raising essential service rates during a pandemic is not a good thing for the company or its clients.</p>

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Nancy	Pierce	Pierce	4775 SE Concord Rd		<p>Please, please don't increase water rates at this perilous time. There is a growing contingent of retirees like myself, in this water district. Increases like this are a hardship on fixed incomes.</p> <p>While you try to have "customer assistance", what you ACTUALLY do, is cause seniors to choose between food and repairs and your fees. We CANNOT afford this increase-please do not.</p>
Robert	Grant		5253 SE Alderway, Milwaukie 97267		
Hanna	Payne		155 W. Dartmouth Street	9497013969	I approve of this plan
Alden	Morgan				<p>This is ridiculous. The price is already absurdly high and now we're coming up with yet another "reason" for making it higher. Why don't you guys give customers a breakdown of what our bill is already supposedly paying for? So we can see how you're mismanaging our money. My guess is you can find 3% in what we pay already, like say the salary of the person in charge of the Oak Lodge</p>



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Michael	Sprando				Shame on you for even suggesting increasing our rates during a national crisis! Learn to work with what you have like the rest of us !! Do you really think that households are going to be getting 3% pay increases this year with 20% unemployment?? Don't make struggling households beg for assistance !! Here's an idea-find a way to lower rates 3% to show you really get what's going on economically!! Maybe that means taking a pay cut while so many are wondering how they are going to just survive!!
Stephanie	Green		3515 SE Roethe Road	5033877460	Why do this now when so many have lost their jobs. This is terrible that you would do that to us. You may not think 3% is a huge increase but it is. Do not do this. Why do this to people in oak grove who have lost their jobs! Vote NO on this
Christian	Strand	Renter	12919 se 29th ave	9712752914	People are already strapped for money, and the government is putting a bandaid on a much larger problem by putting trillions of dollars into an already bubbled system. Increasing rates does not make sense for what is already an expensive source of water. Try to be humane here, water is necessary for all living things. Be better than
Sean	Richter				Please do not increase my water bill. I'm out of work due to the pandemic and can't afford to pay any more on my water bill. Please, please, please don't do this!
Jesus	Mendez		17610 SE Cook St	15034733961	Water and sewer is absolutely one of my highest utility bills. Please, no increases.

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John	Kimmel	Mr.	18314 SE Addie St.	5034212471	Infrastructure repair, inflation, and emergency customer assistance seem like good reasons to raise the rates. I'm in favoe.
Theresa	Imse	None	14344 SE Trilva Jean Ct	360-713-8511	I really can't belive you are proposing a 3% increase due to inflation. This is ludicrous! I am on a fixed income, and especially your clients that are currently not working due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, and are stressing currently how to pay their current bills. Now get a notice that the water company is planning on making an increase in their rates will stress more people than you know. I really think you should reconsider this proposed increase! Ty! For listening, Theresa Imse
Theresa	Imse	None	14344 SE Trilva Jean Ct	360-713-8511	I really can't belive you are proposing a 3% increase due to inflation. This is ludicrous! I am on a fixed income, and especially your clients that are currently not working due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, and are stressing currently how to pay their current bills. Now get a notice that the water company is planning on making an increase in their rates will stress more people than you know. I really think you should reconsider this proposed increase! Ty! For listening, Theresa Imse

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MICHAEL	SWYTER		5020 SE GLEN ECHO		Unbelievably bad policy and horrific timing. I will financially support any recall of the Board of Directors and am asking for the immediate resignation of Ms. Chaplen-who has continually demonstrated her lack of ability in bringing financial common sense to the merger of the two districts. Anyone who has followed the Board meetings either through the minutes or live has seen a level of incompetence that is disturbing. The statements in support of the merger may now be considered outright fraud and the Board has shown it is either financially incompetent or has a shameless disregard for the ratepayers of the District.
Teresa	Davidson		14219 SE LEE AVE.	5037508034	I do not mind a price increase for the water. With that being said the cost of the sewer is crazy high. I have never ever seen anyone on our street even checking the sewer grates. The sewer cost are way to high
Philip	McManus	self	PO Box 22273		The proposal to raise the rates is the based on the same explanation as last time. If you're going to use the monies to replace aging infrastructure, then when is it going to be replaced? Or has it? By what percent vs dollars spent? It is too nebulous. Also, the merger allowed was supposed to reduce costs, but so far it has resulted in increased. Who is doing oversight? Too many questions I would strongly recommend holding off collecting monies without a reasonable ROI other than what is given.

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Robert	Grant		5253 SE Alderway	5032608402	I feel that a rate increase at this time is ridiculous - if truly needed we should wait until people are able to go back to work. Thank you for the opportunity to share
Jeff	Huchendorf	None - homeowner	19815 SE Rinearson Drive	15038871955	The rates are high enough as they are, did not see the cost savings from the water/sewer merger. No need to keep raising rates, and no I do not support a emergency customer assistance program. There are enough other programs out there in the community to assist people in need. Im tired of paying for everyone else.
Becky	Smith		5324 SE El Centro Way	503-654-7002	Hi, I'm not real excited about the proposed 3% increase in our water costs here in the Milwaukie area. With the situation with Covid-19 this really isn't a good time for any kind of an increase. I would prefer this increase be delayed. Thank you
Scott	Borison		14835 SE River Forest Drive	503-789-3089	Time to look for costs savings.
Sang	Pau		5858 SE Hull Ave	5038679499	Any rate increase should be offset by a slight lowering of base fees. Fees should be structured to benefit those who minimize water usage. However the base fee currently is so high relative to consumption fees that there is not much benefit to conserving water.
BONNIE	BELLES	N/A	18330 SE Hull Ct	5036547611	You have GOT to be kidding - right? Are you deliberately trying generate more homelessness? People can't afford to pay their bills NOW. Talk about kicking people while they are down
John	Harbolt II	None	18510 SE Blanton St	5035048923	Water and sewer fees are already to high as it is. The city and state is nickel and diming us to death.

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Scotti	Shaner				Really?!? We're at the highest rate of unemployment since the depression. Many others have had their hours cut. Plus prices of basic necessities are going up and up. And you all think THIS is a good time to raise rates?!? A little out of touch are we????
Sue	Conachan	Antennae, Rabbit Ears	1818 SE Parkview Circle	5036593402	Regarding monthly bill increases. We'll consider that after you sell the sanitary building and get everything combined. After all, I recall hearing there would be at times increases but fewer and less amounts because putting the sanitary and water together would be so much cheaper for the customer and to run the businesses so it would be the right thing to do. Show us cheaper.
Mario	Petrina		18411 Se Wilmot St	5033174758	During a time when people are having a harder time due to covid-19, I don't feel a 3% rate increase is the answer to our problems. Many neighbors and friends are simply trying to get by currently. Everything has been affected from prices of groceries, jobs, income etc. It simply is not the appropriate time for this increase to take place.

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Rodney	Fasching		15338 SE Linden Ln.	5039362064	Most of us are struggling and making financial sacrifices during recent months. This increase comes at the worst possible time. Hopefully this email was computer generated and not some actual people sitting around discussing how to get more money out of us. It's disappointing to see your concern at a time like this is adding to your already too large profit margin. Us staying home has probably raised our consumption and increased our bill. A bonus for you. I'm old, retired and have lived through a lot. I'll figure out how to live through this too. My advice is to lower rates.
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Jennifer	Smith		13621 SE Fair Oaks Dr, Milwaukie, OR 97222- 8080	5034909965	<p>During a time where both households and businesses have been flat-lined by mandated shutdowns is NOT the time to have a rate increase. NOR is it time to start collecting money for an emergency fund from those same households that are in a state of emergency now! My business (cruxcorporation.com) is on Phase 3 of the governors business reactivation plan, meaning the EARLIEST we will be able to resume normal business duties is September. That is IF Phases 1 and 2 go as planned. In addition, I just had spinal surgery in February, just prior to mandated shutdown of my business. And just two months prior to that, I purchased my childhood home in Oak Grove where my family has been since 1978. I am just trying to not lose my family home and business. Please do not move forward with a rate increase!! It is not the time. If you want to</p>
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Nicole	Mangan		19594 SE Cottonwood St, Jennings Lodge, OR 97267	3602136596	<p>Hello. I would first like to know if the increase has an end date or they just expect us to pay 3% more from now on? Either way I don't not agree with the rate increase. I feel like we are already paying enough and don't need additional increases without an actual plan in place. I believe this is just a way to use the pandemic as a way to gouge the paying customers more. Then for the Emergency Customer Assistance Program are those people that need help going to have to pay an extra 3% when they can't even afford their bills? Are they going to have to pay back all the money they owed when they couldn't pay? These are serious questions and they need to be answered before I am willing to accept a rate increase. Thank you.</p>
Rousean	Maglione		17014 SE WILEY WAY	9492750588	<p>THIS IS INSANE AND JUST WRONG! LET US VOTE ON THIS! YOU ABUSE HOME OWNERS WHO ARE STRUGGLING TO PAY THESE HIGH COSTS ALREADY!!!! STOP THIS CHEATING NOW! HIGH HOUSING RATES WITH THESE UTILITY COSTS ARE NOT</p>



**From:** [Abigail Doane](#)  
**To:** [Laural Casey](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Rate Increase  
**Date:** Monday, May 18, 2020 2:03:14 PM

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In regards to the rate increase, I would like to understand the specifics in how the additional revenue will be allocated and how the organization will monitor the spending and the effectiveness of the increase spending. I'm tired for agencies asking for additional fees without a direct tie or accountability on how the money was leveraged. There needs to be clear accountability and traceability to the increased fees to the benefits and improvements made.

Looking forward to hear back from you.

Sincerely,  
Abbe Doane

**From:** [Brandon chambers Portland Oregon](#)  
**To:** [Laural Casey](#)  
**Subject:** Rate increase  
**Date:** Monday, May 18, 2020 11:27:45 AM

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Please don't make us pay more for water.

**From:** [Dennis Mitchell](#)  
**To:** [Laural Casey](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Public Notice on Proposed Rate Increase and Emergency Customer Assistance Program  
**Date:** Monday, May 18, 2020 11:31:59 AM

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Terrible timing in the world to send something like this out. Did you guys think this one through?

Dennis Mitchell  
971-267-7504

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Oak Lodge Water Services <[no\\_reply@online-billpay.com](mailto:no_reply@online-billpay.com)>  
**Date:** May 18, 2020 at 11:25:40 AM PDT  
**To:** [denmit@gmail.com](mailto:denmit@gmail.com)  
**Subject: Public Notice on Proposed Rate Increase and Emergency Customer Assistance Program**



### **Your Input Welcomed**

The Board of Directors will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 6 p.m. for the following purpose:

To receive public input regarding the *proposed rate increases* resulting in an overall increase of 3% to the average residential customer's bill for drinking water and wastewater services effective July 2020. The rate increase is in response to increasing costs due to inflation, renewal and replacement of aging infrastructure, and to fund an *Emergency Customer Assistance Program*.

All interested persons are invited to provide comment on this matter. Those who wish to give verbal comment should attend the public hearing of which details will be published in the Clackamas Review and posted on the District website. Those who wish to submit a written comment may visit:  
[www.oaklodgewaterservices.org/bc/webform/public-comment](http://www.oaklodgewaterservices.org/bc/webform/public-comment).

Further information can be obtained at [www.oaklodgewaterservices.org](http://www.oaklodgewaterservices.org) or by contacting the District Recorder by phone at (503) 353-4227 or by email at [laural@olwsd.org](mailto:laural@olwsd.org).

**From:** [Lola](#)  
**To:** [Laural Casey](#)  
**Subject:** Increase in rates  
**Date:** Sunday, May 17, 2020 2:23:09 PM

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I strongly oppose increase in rates at this time.  
LM

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Patti Maloy](#)  
**To:** [Laural Casey](#)  
**Subject:** water fees increase  
**Date:** Monday, May 18, 2020 12:03:51 PM

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Hello,

I want to express my deep concern about increase in water rates. With unprecedented unemployment, this is definitely NOT the time to increase rates.

Taxes and cost of living continue to go up. My husband is on Social security, I only have 1-2 years before I retire and plan to move out of state due to the high cost of living here.

Thank you  
Patricia Maloy

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



## PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

The Oak Lodge Water Services District Board of Directors welcomes comment from members of the public. Please use this form to submit written comment.

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### Identifying Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Group or Organization Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Public Comment

The District Recorder requests that written comments are submitted at least 48 hours prior to a scheduled public meeting for distribution to the Board of Directors in advance of the meeting.

Written comment may not be read out loud or addressed during the meeting, but all public comments will be entered into the record.

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You may submit this form to the Oak Lodge Water Services District Recorder in person, by email, or by postal mail.

Email: [laural@olwsd.org](mailto:laural@olwsd.org)

District Offices: 14496 SE River Road, Oak Grove, OR 97267

# OAK LODGE

WATER SERVICES

## PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

The Oak Lodge Water Services District Board of Directors welcomes comment from members of the public. Please use this form to submit written comment.

### Identifying Information

Name: Julia Vinciguerra Date: 5/18/20

Group or Organization Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 12525 SE 25th Ave Phone Number: 907-227-9904

### Public Comment

I absolutely vote NO for the 3% increase. This is the highest water bill I've ever paid in any location I live. Not all salaries/wages are keeping up with "inflation." As far as emergency relief fund...not everyone qualifies for that. I disagree entirely with any kind of increase for this year.

The District Recorder requests that written comments are submitted at least 48 hours prior to a scheduled public meeting for distribution to the Board of Directors in advance of the meeting.

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