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November 22, 2021

Board of Directors
Triunfo Water & Sanitation District
Ventura County, California

WASTEWATER CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: RESOLUTION NO. TWSD 2021-008

Summary

At the October 25, 2021, Triunfo Water & Sanitation District Board Meeting, your Board approved moving forward with possible implementation of a low-income assistance program (CARE) for its wastewater customers. Customers will qualify by providing either confirmed participation in the CARE program, verified via electric or gas utility providers, or by supplying the first page of their 1040 tax return to validate the income compliance. This financial assistance program is considered as a pilot program and will be reevaluated by the Board in 2023 following the first year of rebates. Should the Board approve the subject assistance program for wastewater customers, given that wastewater service fees are paid via the County of Ventura Tax Rolls, implementation would begin July 1, 2022.

Utilizing the District's potable water assistance program at \$15/month as a model, the rebate could be the same \$180 annually. It is recommended the Board discuss the program and if approved, confirm that the \$180 annually listed in the Resolution is appropriate or provide an alternate amount to be included.


Please contact me at 805-658-4621 or email marknorris@trunfowsd.com if you have any questions or need additional information.

Fiscal Impact

It is difficult to estimate the number of households that may qualify for this wastewater CARE program but a level similar to potable water participants (currently at 41) would cost the District an additional \$7,380 annually.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board approve TWSD Resolution No. TWSD 2021-008 and authorize the Chair to sign to implement a temporary wastewater assistance program through June 30, 2023, to provide a \$180/year credit to qualifying District customers.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:  _____
Mark Norris - General Manager

Attachment: TWSD Resolution No. TWSD 2021-008

RESOLUTION NO. TWSD 2021-008

A RESOLUTION OF THE TRIUNFO WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS ESTABLISHING A SEWER SERVICE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR ITS WASTEWATER CUSTOMERS

WHEREAS, the Triunfo Water & Sanitation District (“District”) is duly organized and established under California Health and Safety Code Section 4700 et seq., known and cited as the “County Sanitation District Act” (“Act”); and

WHEREAS, Section 4767 of the Act authorizes the District to acquire, distribute and retail water supplies to its Customers for domestic and other uses; and

WHEREAS, the District provides wastewater services to its Customers and, in accordance with applicable law, charges those Customers certain fees designed to cover the District’s operating and maintenance expenses; and

WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code Section 4766 authorizes the District to adopt ordinances for the purpose of exercise and effect of any to its powers, or for the purposes for which it is formed, including, without limitation, an ordinance establishing policies and procedures for the District’s wastewater services; and

WHEREAS, the District has duly adopted Ordinance No. TWSD-200 which provides for the establishment of policies and procedures for wastewater service; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the California Alternative Rates for Energy (CARE) program under the CPUC, the District wants to establish an interim wastewater customer assistance program for income qualifying residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, THAT:

1. All recitals contained above are true and incorporated by reference herein.
2. The District adopts the requirements of the CARE program for income thresholds with the maximum amount for 1-2 people being \$34,840.
3. Acceptance into the District’s program will be confirmed by participation in the CARE program, verified via electric or gas utility providers, or by supplying the first page of their Federal 1040 tax return to validate compliance with the income thresholds established by the CARE program.
4. Qualified customers will receive assistance in the form of a \$180/year discount for wastewater service reflected on their annual service fee billing via the County of Ventura Tax Roll. Applications must be received by June 1, 2022 to qualify for the discount on the FY 2023 tax rolls.

5. This interim assistance program will remain in force until June 30, 2023, wherein the Board of Directors will either choose to extend it via a continuing resolution or adopt it as policy under TWSD Ordinance No. TWSD-200.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 22nd day of November, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Raymond Tjulander, Chair
Triunfo Water & Sanitation District
Board of Directors

Attest:

Fidela Garcia
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

John Mathews, General Counsel