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December 20, 2021


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

**DISCUSSION: REQUEST BY OAK PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR A WASTEWATER SERVICE FEE REDUCTION**

**Recommendation**

On December 13, 2021, Triunfo Water & Sanitation District (District) received the attached letter from Oak Park Unified School District (OPUSD) requesting a wastewater service fee reduction based on Covid-19 related impacts, specifically, average student count was reduced due to implementation of remote learning. Staff fully appreciates Covid-19 impacts, not only those related to OPUSD, but to many other businesses as well. The District's rate structure assumes revenue from a variety of large and small customers, including OPUSD. Any discount or fee reduction granted to one customer must be offset by increasing costs to others. Staff is concerned that honoring OPUSD's request would set a precedent. As a result, staff is requesting your Board discuss and provide direction.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Norris - General Manager

Attachment: OPUSD December 9, 2021 letter

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**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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818-735-3200

**Educating Compassionate and Creative Global Citizens**

December 9, 2021

Triunfo Water & Sanitation District  
Attn: Mark Norris, General Manager  
1001 Partridge Drive, Suite 100  
Ventura, CA 93003

**RE: Account Number S00594.1  
Request for Reduction of Fees**

Dear Mr. Norris:

I am requesting a reduction in the sewer fees on behalf of Oak Park Unified School District due to the lack of students and staff on campus for a year and 5 months during the COVID-19 shutdown. On March 16, 2020 all Oak Park Unified School District schools were closed to reduce the spread of COVID-19. All students and staff were not back on campus until August 9, 2021.

Sewer charges are based on the Average Daily Attendance (ADA) and staff. We have experienced a drastic increase to our sewer charges over the past 3 years while our ADA has been decreasing. The cost of sewer charges went up a whopping \$52,912.68 since July of 2018. Please see the sewer charges, ADA and Staff Count per Fiscal Year since 2018-19:

**FY 2018-19 - sewer charges \$115,563.00**

**ADA: 4,430.19**

**Staff: 401**

**FY 2019-20 sewer charges increased to \$134,595.12**

**ADA: 4,373.94**

**Staff: 409**

No students or staff were on campus from March 16, 2020 through the end of that fiscal/school year which reduced our sewer usage by approximately \$39,256.91 based on your calculations.

**FY 2020-21 sewer charges increased to \$146,513.52**

**ADA: decreased to 4,315.14**

**Staff: 370**

Schools were closed until February 24, 2021 when only 40% of K-3 elementary school children were on campus for Hybrid learning. On March 15th 40% of the 4 and 5th grades were added to the hybrid program. The Middle and High Schools were not on campus for the entire school year. Even if we only the period with no students on campus (August through February) it would show a sewer usage reduction of approximately \$85,466.22.

**FY 2021-22 sewer charges skyrocketed to \$168,475.68**

**ADA: decreased to 4,165.4**

**Staff: 413**

We were not anticipate the shocking increase of \$21,962.16 for the FY 21-22 sewer charges. Please support a reduction in the sewer fees for the 2021-22 School Year.

Thank you for your kind consideration of our request. Please advise what is the next step(s) or processes to request this reduction.

Sincerely,



Annette Segal  
Business Department Assistant

CC: Adam Rauch, Assistant Superintendent Business Operations  
Byron Jones, Director of Fiscal Services