



ROSS VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT

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For Immediate Release

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Ross Valley Sanitary District Board Agrees to Conduct Flow-Based Rate Study

Feasibility and Cost Study to Be Completed by Mid-December

Ross Valley Sanitary District, the 111-year-old sewer agency serving the Ross Valley, will conduct a flow-based sewer rate feasibility study that will inform the District and its ratepayers of the potential impacts and benefits of converting from flat to flow-based rates for sewer service.

On September 21, 2011, the Board of Directors unanimously approved an agreement with HF&H Consultants, LLC, to perform the study that will be completed by mid-December. The study will include an assessment of potential flow-based rate structures and evaluate options and associated costs for implementing flow-based charges.

During public meetings leading up to the adoption of the recent rate increase, the Ross Valley Sanitary District board heard repeated requests from members of the public to convert to a flow-based rate structure. Because flow-based rates are largely based on water consumption, the residential customers who made the requests feel the rate structure will be more equitable as it accounts for differences in household size, multi-family dwellings and more.

According to John Farnkopf, Senior Vice President of HF&H, over 70% of residential customers in California are billed flat rates, however he has noted increased interest in flow-based rates during the current economic downturn. Farnkopf's consulting firm has extensive experience in the utility industry and has clients in Marin as well as throughout California.

"We want to be fair to all ratepayers and at the same time meet the State's strict requirements for protecting public health and the environment," says Brett Richards, General Manager of the Ross Valley Sanitary District. "These requirements make it clear that we must adequately fund the maintenance, operation and repair of our aging system."