



**GRANITE FALLS**

City of Granite Falls  
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April 24th, 2015

Dear Utility Customer,

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the City council passed Resolution #2015-02, which approved a utility rate increase for water and sewer service effective June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. This is part of a planned increase scheduled to be phased in over the next two years to cover utility operation and maintenance costs, fund system improvements, and protect the environment. As a result of the economic recession, the City Council elected to delay necessary rate increases in the past to minimize the impact on ratepayers. There has only been one rate increase for water and sewer since 2010.

The following outlines the residential rate structure effective June 1, 2015 and explains how your utility services are billed:

Utilities are billed monthly for water, sewer, and stormwater. Bills are sent out on or near the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.

- The first month billing is the base fee only (billed at the end of January, March, May, July, September, & November). See base rates as listed in section below
- The second month billing is the base fee for the month + the usage fee for water consumption based on data collected from meter reading over a two month period (billed at the end of February, April, June, August, October, & December).
- 500 cubic feet of water usage is included in the monthly base fee, so the water usage fee is for the additional cost for any water usage over 1,000 cubic feet in a two-month period of time. (one cubic foot = 7.48 gallons of water)
- \$2 Surcharge Fee – the surcharge fee on your utility statement is a fee that is used to fund capitol improvement projects related to the city's water system.

**Utility Rates effective June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015:** Please note, fees as outlined below are for single family residential customers. For information on fees for commercial or multi-family customers, please refer to fee resolution #2015-02 or contact City Hall.

**Water** Base Fee - \$28.15 per month (single family residence, ¾" meter)

This base rate includes the first 500 cubic feet of water consumption per month. Since the City only reads meters every two months, customers are only charged overage (water usage fee) for consumption of more than 1,000 cubic feet in a two-month period.

For example, if you use 700 cubic feet of water in month #1 and 300 cubic feet in month #2, you would not be charged overage for month #1 because the total for two months is still not over 1,000 cubic feet.

For every additional 100 cu. ft. of consumption (above 1,000 cf allotted for two months), there is a charge of \$3.26.

**Sewer** Flat Fee - \$58.30 per month (single family residence)

This fee is a flat rate charged to all residential customers connected to the City's wastewater collection system and treatment plant. The City does not currently charge a fee to residential customers for the amount of "usage" for flows leaving the residence into the wastewater system as some other cities do.

**Storm** Flat Fee - \$9 per month (single family residence)

Due to the rapidly increasing costs of state and federal mandates related to the City's stormwater pollution (NPDES) permit, stormwater rates were raised to \$9 per month in 2010.

Beginning in 2016, the stormwater fee will transfer from a monthly fee billed by the City on the utility billing statements to an annual fee billed by the County on behalf of the City, which will be on the property tax statement. This method will insure that all parcels of land in the City are being billed correctly for stormwater.