UTILITY SPECIAL DISTRICT

THE FUTURE OF UTILITY AND THE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

One Drop at a Time!

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WHEN: January 15, 2025 at 5:30pm

WHERE: Riviera Beach Marina Event Center
190 East 13th Street
Riviera Beach, FL 33404

City of Riviera Beach Utility District
Established in 2004
Palm Beach County, Florida

Riviera Beach

The Board of Directors of the Utility Special District and staff have been working diligently over the past few years to deliver a state-of-the-art water treatment facility. The existing facility is approaching the end of its useful life. We must move forward with a facility that can deliver the quality product we do not expect but demand.

We encourage you to stay connected with us, so that you know what is being done to meet this need. We are committed to providing opportunities for the community to engage with us on this important topic.

Jonathan Evans, City Manager, MPA, MBA, FRA-RA, ICMA-CM

Public Notice To Utility Customers

On January 15, 2025, a resolution amending the rates, fees and charges of the City of Riviera Beach Utility Special District (the "District") will be presented to the District Board in order to fund costs associated with a new water treatment plant, regulatory requirements, and other utility infrastructure. The amendment proposes current and future increases to the District's water, sewer, tapping, master meter, sprinkler meter, fire service protection, and service availability rates, fees and charges.

The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will be held at the Riviera Beach Marina Event Center, located at 190 E. 13th Street, Riviera Beach, FL 33404.

Upcoming Community Meetings

Members of the community are welcome to attend any of three community meetings regarding the state of the Utility and the new treatment facility to be constructed at the intersection of West Blue Heron Boulevard and Avenue L, Riviera Beach, FL. Proposed increases to the water and wastewater rates to support the project will be an integral part of the discussion. We look forward to meeting you and addressing your concerns during these informative and interactive sessions.

Tuesday, January 7, 2025 | 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Riviera Beach Marina Event Center, 190 E. 13th Street, Riviera Beach, FL 33404

Thursday, January 9, 2025 | 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Riviera Beach Marina Event Center, 190 E. 13th Street, Riviera Beach, FL 33404

Monday, January 13, 2025 | 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Riviera Beach Marina Event Center, 190 E. 13th Street, Riviera Beach, FL 33404

Project Background

The scope of this project includes construction of a new 14 million gallons per day (MGD) membrane water treatment facility (WTF) located at the intersection of Avenue L and Blue Heron Blvd. This project will be compliant with the first-ever nationwide, legally enforceable drinking water standards to protect communities from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and implement new membrane state-of-the-art technologies. In addition to the WTF, the project includes an administration building for the District staff; installation of two new surficial aquifer system (SAS) wells; a new Floridan Aquifer System (FAS) supply with six (6) new FAS wells and a raw water pipeline to convey this water to the new WTF; a ground storage tank; modifications to the finished water pipeline to connect the new WTF to the existing distribution system.

Key elements of the project include the replacement of aging lead pipes to enhance public health, the implementation of advanced backup power solutions to ensure continuous operation during emergencies, and targeted efficiency upgrades to improve overall water quality and supply.

The new facility will not only improve water quality but also enhance sustainability through energy-efficient operations designed to reduce the plant's carbon footprint. Equipped with advanced monitoring systems, the plant will respond dynamically to changing water conditions, ensuring a reliable supply of clean water even in the face of environmental challenges.

This project represents a critical investment in the community's future, ensuring that residents have access to safe, sustainable, and affordable drinking water for generations to come. The WTF will stand as a testament to the City's dedication to public health, environmental stewardship, and long-term resilience.

Benefits of the New Water Treatment Facility

The WTF project is a vital initiative designed to address the growing water demands of the community, ensuring a reliable, and sustainable supply of treated water. A primary goal is to increase the City's water capacity by constructing a new facility that produces 14 million gallons of clean drinking water per day. This expansion is essential to meet the needs of the current population of approximately 38,344 residents and the projected increase to 45,000 residents over the next fifteen years.

The WTF will significantly enhance public health and well-being by utilizing advanced filtration and treatment systems to remove contaminants, such as PFAS, and other impurities from water sources. These improvements will ensure that the water provided to residents not only meets but exceeds stringent health and safety standards, contributing to the overall wellness of the community.

In addition to providing clean water, the project is committed to environmental sustainability by incorporating energy-efficient processes that reduce the carbon footprint of water treatment operations. This approach positions the WTF as a model of eco-friendly infrastructure, aligning with broader environmental stewardship goals.

The project offers substantial public benefits by creating employment opportunities during both the construction and operational phases, thus supporting the local economy. Additionally, the plant will bolster community resilience by ensuring a reliable water supply capable of supporting residential, commercial, and industrial growth.

The WTF project demonstrates a comprehensive commitment to public health, environmental sustainability, and economic vitality, serving as a cornerstone for the community's long-term resilience and prosperity.

Protection of Health and the Environment

The WTF is a comprehensive initiative focused on safeguarding human health and the environment. Utilizing cutting-edge technologies, the plant will exceed regulatory standards for drinking water protection, ensuring the delivery of safe and clean water to the community.

In addition to drinking water protection, the project emphasizes source water protection through proactive strategies designed to prevent pollution and maintain water quality in surrounding ecosystems. These efforts contribute to the preservation of a resilient watershed, which is crucial for sustaining the natural environment and the community's long-term water resources.

The plant's sustainable practices are integral to its design, optimizing water use efficiency and minimizing waste. Advanced technologies will enable the plant to adjust to changing environmental conditions, ensuring a reliable and consistent water supply even in the face of future challenges.

Overall, the WTF project represents a holistic approach to protecting human health and the environment. It is a commitment to providing clean water, preserving vital natural resources, and promoting sustainable water management for the well-being of current and future generations.

Implementation of Innovative Technology

The new WTF project integrates cutting-edge technologies to enhance sustainability and operational efficiency. The project will harness renewable and alternative energy sources, such as solar and wind, to power the plant, significantly reducing its environmental impact. Advanced water recycling systems will be employed to maximize resource efficiency, enabling the treatment and reuse of water for various applications.

In addition, the plant will incorporate state-of-the-art desalination technologies to address water scarcity challenges, ensuring a diversified and resilient water supply. These innovative approaches not only promote environmental sustainability but also position the WTF as a model for efficient and forward-thinking water management. The project demonstrates a strong commitment to leveraging technology to meet the community's evolving needs while minimizing its ecological footprint.

Innovative Approaches to Plan, Design, and Manage the Water Treatment Facility

The WTF project embraces innovative approaches at every stage of its lifecycle. During the planning phase, advanced computer modeling and data analytics are used to optimize infrastructure layout, enhancing both efficiency and resilience. The design phase incorporates state-of-the-art technologies to improve water treatment processes, ensuring the highest standards of purification and quality.

In project management, real-time monitoring systems are implemented to allow for adaptability to changing conditions and proactive problem-solving. Collaborative cloud-based platforms streamline communication among stakeholders, improving project coordination and decision-making. The implementation phase utilizes cutting-edge construction methods that prioritize sustainability and efficiency.

By integrating these innovative approaches in planning, design, and management, the WTF project ensures a forward-thinking and efficient strategy to meet the community's water needs while minimizing environmental impact.

Scope of Work	Cost
Contingency	$ 4,904,458
Avenue L Site Clearing (Approved February 2024)	5,997,142
Groundwater Supply Wells	37,355,949
New Water Treatment Facility	214,241,779
Groundwater Storage Tanks and High Service Pump Stations	12,865,902
Concentrate Injection and Monitoring Wells	36,565,396
Raw Water Transmission Main	28,874,888
Finished Water Transmission Main	7,374,570
Demolition of existing Water Treatment Plant	4,293,181
Maintenance Facility Improvements	4,403,775
Total Anticipated Project Construction Costs	**$ 356,877,040**

What is the Cost of the New Water Treatment Plant?

A PENNY A GALLON!

Estimated Cost of Treatment Plant	$400,000,000
Estimated Annual Debt Service Cost Factor	6.25%
Estimated Debt Service Cost	$25,000,000
FY 2022 & FY 2023 Consumption (in Thousands)	2,463,983
Estimated Cost per 1,000 Gallons	$10.15
Cost per Gallon	$0.0101

Recommended Average System Annual Percent Rate Revenue Adjustments

Description	Fiscal Year Ending September 30, [1]				
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Water System: [2]					
Adopted [3]	10.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	0.00%
Recommended Additional [4]	0.00%	28.00%	28.00%	26.00%	26.00%
Total Water System	**10.00%**	**31.85%**	**31.85%**	**29.78%**	**26.00%**
Wastewater System:					
Adopted [3]	8.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	0.00%
Recommended Additional [4]	0.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	6.00%
Total Wastewater System	**8.00%**	**6.09%**	**6.09%**	**6.09%**	**6.00%**
Average Increase – Combined System	**8.98%**	**18.77%**	**20.17%**	**20.28%**	**18.94%**

[1] Rates assumed to become effective with service rendered on October 1 of each respective fiscal year.
[2] Includes potable water irrigation service.
[3] Amounts shown reflect a phased interim rate implementation plan previously adopted by the District pursuant to Resolution No. 21-23UD on September 20, 2023 which became effective beginning in Fiscal Year 2024; the term or phase-in period for the rates adopted pursuant to Resolution No. 21-23UD is scheduled to end in Fiscal Year 2028. The Fiscal Year 2025 rate adjustments have been placed into effect as of the date of the latest rate study report.
[4] Represents rate adjustments that are in addition to and should be added to the District Board-adopted rates. Rates proposed are assumed to become effective on October 1 of each fiscal year.

Average Monthly Bill Increase - Single-family Residential Customers Using 5,000 Gallons of Service

Description	Water	Sewer	Combined
FY 2025 Existing Rates	$41.13	$43.41	$84.54
FY 2026 Recommended Rate Increase	33.45%	6.22%	19.47%
Adjusted Bill	$54.89	$46.11	$101.00
Increase in Monthly Bill	$13.76	$2.70	$16.46
FY 2027 Recommended Rate Increase	31.83%	6.14%	20.10%
Adjusted Bill	$72.36	$48.94	$121.30
Increase in Monthly Bill	$17.47	$2.83	$20.30
FY 2028 Recommended Rate Increase	29.78%	6.05%	20.21%
Adjusted Bill	$93.91	$51.90	$145.81
Increase in Monthly Bill	$21.55	$2.96	$24.51
FY 2029 Recommended Rate Increase	25.98%	6.05%	18.89%
Adjusted Bill	$118.31	$55.04	$173.35
Increase in Monthly Bill	$24.40	$3.14	$27.54

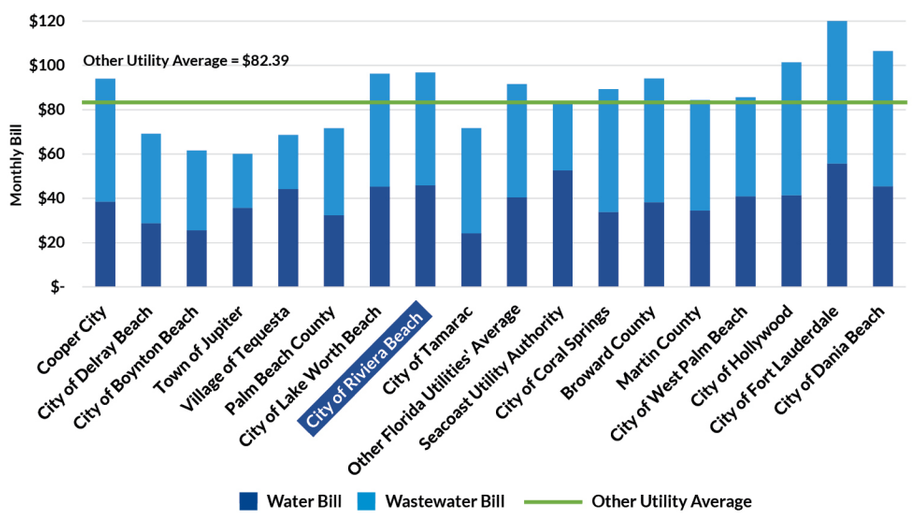
Increase in the District's Costs

The primary reasons for the increase in water and wastewater monthly user rates are due to:

1. A significant level of capital costs being financed associated with the replacement of the existing water treatment facilities which is expected to start construction in Fiscal Year 2025 with an estimated construction cost of $356 million.
2. Increased costs of wastewater treatment and disposal associated with the financing of significant capital improvements through increased deposits to the Renewal and Replacement Fund attributable to the East Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility coupled with increased costs of operations at the facility.
3. Increased operating expenses associated with the continued impacts of general inflation and increased energy increases and the residual effects on the cost of doing business (chemicals, repairs, transportation, etc.).
4. Increased operating expenses for the water system associated with the need to secure contract services to operate the facilities due to a lack of candidates to fill vacant positions.
5. Due to the age and condition of the existing utility plant assets, the proposed rate recommendations provide additional dedicated annual transfers to fund capital expenditures for the ongoing and needed renewal, replacement, betterment and upgrade of System assets.
6. Maintain the creditworthiness of the System and a favorable bond credit rating. Maintaining working cash reserves to limit the risk to the utility due to unforeseen changes in revenues, unexpected operating or capital expenses. Provide a plan to achieve the lowest cost of borrowers for capital financing. Promote the long-term financial stability of the System.
7. To issue additional bonds, the District must approve rates to have sufficient net revenues to meet the additional bonds test requirement. Rates must be in place to issue the debt to finance the capital improvements to the System.

The recommended rates for the Fiscal Year 2026 after the implementation of the additional rate increase are projected to remain competitive when compared to the rates charged by other neighboring public utilities. A comparison of the District existing rates to the other public utility rates (which rates are current and do not reflect any changes that may occur after the date of the rate report and during Fiscal Year 2018) are summarized on the figure below for the average residential (individually metered) customer using 5,000 gallons:

Comparison of Combined Monthly Water and Wastewater Residential Bills at 5,000 Gallons



CITY OF RIVIERA BEACH
UTILITY SPECIAL DISTRICT
600 West Blue Heron Boulevard
Riviera Beach, FL 33404

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

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The 2024 Water and Wastewater Utility Revenue Sufficiency and Rate Report dated December 19, 2024 and additional information are available at www.rivierabch.com/government/utility. Please contact the District at (561) 845-4185 or utilities@rivierabeach.org for any further information.

A session will be available for viewing on Channel 18 and the City's social media platforms.

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