

From: Roc Ahrens [mailto:roc.ahrens@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 3:27 PM
To: Diana Lapham; Ron Jackson; George Campbell; Joanne Waterman; Dave Berry; Mike Case
Cc: Dave Sosa; Jila Stuart; Jan Hill; Julie Cozzi
Subject: Piedad Surcharge rate

Dear Haines Borough Officials & Assembly,

February 24, 2015

Subject: Piedad Surcharge

First of all, we are not against a rate increase, however, we would like to express our perplexity over the reasoning behind the additional amount of surcharge that is being leveraged on the “users” of the CCWSS system, for it’s purchase, than the utility users “inside the City”.

First of all, we are in “the city”, and would like to think that we are part of “the utility” since the purchase of CCWSS, instead of being treated like it is “our” utility & “your” utility. Before CCWSS, we (Piedad) were part of the water utility service of the City of Haines, even though we were charged as users “outside” the City Limits. But when Coogan Construction did the major improvements to the Main Street area, our rates nearly doubled. We were told that we were all part of the same water utility service, so we should help pay for the improvements downtown, and when it was our turn (Piedad) the rest of the utility would share in paying for our improvements. We felt that was fair, and paid twice as much for our water service for 25 years or more. But then when the Transit line serving Piedad started to fail, the City said that they were not going to pay, nor was the rest of the utility going to help bare the burden, and if we wanted to improve the water system we would have to form a LID and do it ourselves. Also note that the “Piedad water system” was being used to bring water into the City system through most of those years.

So here we are, back with this “yours” and “ours” water system, of the same utility that we are to pay more than the rest of the utility users.

So what about the 25+ years of “sharing the burden” fees we paid for “your” system, and leave us with the bigger share of the improvements cost of “our” system.

1. If we are view it that way, can we expect to be paid user fees for the advantages of the upgrades the Piedad water system is able to provide to the “City” with approx. 75,000 gallons of water a day into “your” utility?
2. Not to consider how much it saved the rest of the “common utility” to not have to replace the failed waterline down Sunshine Rd. to get Piedad water to town. To be sure, customers other than Piedad users are benefiting from this purchase.
3. Maybe a compromise could be to exchange the saving of a replacement line, and the use of “our” improved line to supply fresh water into town on a daily basis, for the extra amount of surcharge.

Thank you for your time,

Roc & Diann Ahrens
Moose Lane