

The Sutter Creek Current- April 2024

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The Sutter Creek Current



May 2024

City Manager's Message by Tom DuBois

The city recently completed a survey of Resident priorities. Thanks to all who participated. An amazing 96% of you rated Sutter Creek as a great place to live with an excellent quality of life. The top identified needs to maintain that quality of life were Roads (roads, and roads), public safety with low response times, and maintaining other city services, such as storm drains, in order to have a well-run city that continues to attract both residents and visitors.

The City Council is investigating a possible local sales and use tax that would leverage our tourists to help pay for these things. More information will be coming as the Council continues to evaluate a possible ballot measure.

As you may have seen reported in the Ledger Dispatch, the City of Sutter Creek is facing large increases in our wastewater utility rates. These rates are set based on the City's sewer rate study available on the City's web site.

Rates are determined by analyzing the cities operation and maintenance costs for the wastewater utility ONLY. Funds cannot be used for any other purpose. The rate study identifies the maintenance and investment required, including emergency reserves and capital improvements required for long term viability.

The biggest change the city is proposing is on capital spending - rebuilding our collection, treatment, and disposal systems, all of which are beyond their life expectancy. The plan is to fix leaks in the sewer system in order to drive down costs for an upgraded treatment plant. With the increased rates the city will be able to build up capital reserves needed for these repairs.

The rate study assumes that the city is leveraging all available grants and low interest loans available to it. Rates would need to be much higher if we attempted to "pay as we go" without debt. Grant programs require matching funds from the city in order to access. Debt financing requires the sewer rates paid are sufficient to repay the debt.

I understand this is a big ask of residents. We are holding a community meeting at 6:30 PM, May 2nd in the Community Building to present details of the plan and answer questions. A public hearing will be held in June. As always, feel free to reach out to me at tdubois@cityofsuttercreek.org.

Supporting Documents

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364.74 KB

The Jewel of the Motherlode

Upcoming Events

May 6th City Council
May 11th Weekly Farmers Market Begins
May 11th Grammar School Lecture Series
May 13th DRC
May 13th Planning Commission
May 13th Community Meeting – Wastewater Rates
May 13th Knight Foundry Tour Day
May 16th City Council
May 16th ARSA
May 25th Knight Foundry Tour Day
May 25th Trash to Treasures
May 31st -June 2nd - Italian Picnic

Kimberly Wooten
Archaeologist and Local History Author
Saturday, May 11, 5:00 pm
Historical Archaeology 101
Enjoy a hands-on component with
Native-era artifacts