

Grenada Sanitary District

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California Regional Water Quality Control Board

RE: Waste Water Permit Fee

The Grenada Sanitary District has received a billing from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board for the Annual Wastewater Permit. The billing was in the amount of \$4216.00.

This fee is excessive and overly burdensome to a small District like ours. The fee constitutes 25% of the gross income the District receives annually to provide sewer service. Our district has 65 connections and of those 65 connections, only 60 are paying customers. Accounts have gone delinquent, and homes and businesses are vacant or no longer in operation.

Our District receives approximately \$18,000 annually from sewer fees. Of that, \$10,000 to 11,000 is our basic cost to maintain an antiquated wastewater disposal system. The exorbitant wastewater permit fee leaves less than \$2000 annually to address sewer maintenance problems. The costs for labor and materials is not any less in Grenada than any other location in California.

The demographics of Grenada Sanitary District are:

Population: 230 28% decrease from 2010

Median age: 54% - 18-64 36% - over 64 10% - under 18 years

Income: 3/5 of California average 12% below poverty line

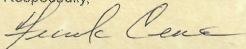
These figures represent the entire community of Grenada, CA. Approximately 45% of the homes in Grenada are on private septic systems from which the District receives no sewer fees.

A \$4216 wastewater permit fee reflects a cost to the residents receiving sewer service of \$80 annually. This is a disproportionate amount in comparison to other much larger cities. I doubt that the wastewater fee to a city having one million connections to the sewer system is 80 million.

It would seem that there are many other communities in California with similar issues with this excessive permit fee.

We suggest that the Annual Wastewater Permit Fee schedule be reviewed to adjust a more equitable fee for small districts.

Respectfully,



Frank Cena, Grenada Sanitary District Chair

FC/MG