

VSPUD customers have last chance to protest proposed rate hike

The Valley Springs News / November 11, 2016

Customers of the Valley Springs Public Utility District on Wednesday have a final opportunity to comment or protest a proposed rate hike.

A public hearing on the possible rate hike begins at 6 p.m. at the district office, 150 Sequoia Avenue.

VSPUD is looking at a five-year plan to finance wastewater system improvements. Total project costs have been estimated at \$9.5 million, most of which would be financed through grants and \$3 million in a no-interest loan repaid over 30 years.

The proposed five-year plan calls for sewage rate increases for the typical home from \$49.50 to \$81.09 a month by 2020. That money would be used to pay a yearly debt service of \$100.00.

The water and sewer district mainly situated in downtown Valley Springs has 292 residential and 88 commercial customers. Commercial customers would see an equivalent rate hike.

The proposed rate increases are subject to majority protest. If more than 50 percent of affected property owners submit written protests against the proposed rate hikes before or at the public hearing, the increases cannot be adopted by the board.