

Rate hikes to subsidize growth in Copperopolis

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Editor,

On Sept. 13, 2023, the Calaveras County Water District Board of Directors voted 3-2 to approve a five-year rate increase in water and wastewater services. The increase will occur in October, beginning with a 22 percent increase in water and a 12 percent increase in wastewater rates.

We are highly critical of this rate increase and strongly advocate for ratepayer equity. The current Capital Improvement Project budget allocates more than a third of its funds to projects serving Copperopolis where the majority of future growth is projected to occur. Projects that serve only Copperopolis should not be funded by all ratepayers throughout the county. Those that benefit the most should bear the cost.

Also, if a project serves both existing customers and new development, CCWD needs to document that existing ratepayers are not shouldering an unfair burden to cover the cost of the new development. More accountability and commitment are needed from CCWD in this regard. Given the high percentage of Calaveras County residents on a fixed income, equitable cost-sharing is critical.

To learn more about the Calaveras Planning Coalition and our work to address other long neglected issues in Calaveras County, visit www.calaverascap.com/list .

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