



Staff Report

INFORMATIONAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION FROM FINANCE COMMISSION REGARDING SEWER FEE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP PROGRAMS

Honorable Mayor and Council Members

Summary

As requested by Council, the Finance Commission discussed the establishment of an Economic Hardship Program for sewer charges and is recommending the Council not establish a program and, instead, refer citizens to the State of California Property Tax Postponement System.

Background

On May 27, 2008, as part of the discussion on the ordinance adopting a schedule for sewer charges, Council discussed the issue of economic hardship relative to these charges and referred the matter to the Finance Commission for review, discussion and recommendation.

Discussion

In preparation of bringing this matter forward to the Finance Commission, staff consulted legal counsel and conducted a survey of nearby cities and organizations that offer economic hardship programs.

Legal counsel advised the City has four options for funding an Economic Hardship Program. Those options are 1) special tax authorized by two-thirds of the voters, 2) appropriation from the General Fund, 3) donations from customers and 4) late fees and penalties from customers.

Staff solicited responses through the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers on Economic Hardship Programs. Those survey results showed that agencies that offer such programs typically have an internal billing function that allows the assessment and collection of interest and penalties to be used to fund the program (Option 4 above). Since Belmont's sewer charges are charged on the property tax bill and Belmont is a participant in the Teeter Plan, the County retains these funds that might otherwise be used to fund the program.

On October 1st the Finance Commission reviewed staff's research and analysis and, after much discussion, recommended that Council not establish an Economic Hardship Program at this time. Further, the Commission recommended that citizens be referred to the State of California Property Tax Postponement Program that provides assistance to seniors, blind, and disabled homeowners that meet certain requirements including income and occupancy limits.

Fiscal Impact

As this is a discussion and direction matter only, this report has no fiscal impact. The City

currently does not have a revenue source to support such a program, however, Council could appropriate funding from the Contingency account for such a purpose.

Public Contact

1. The matter was discussed at the Finance Commission.
2. Posting of City Council agenda.

Recommendation

Finance Commission recommends that the Council not establish an Economic Hardship Program at this time and, instead, refer citizens to the State Program discussed above.

Alternatives

1. Direct staff to establish an Economic Hardship Program through the appropriation of General Fund monies. Although the need for such a program has not been quantified, staff estimates \$5,000 would be a sufficient initial outlay. To date, staff has not received any demands from citizens for rate relief.
2. Refer back to staff for further information
3. Reject overall recommendation

Attachments:

- A. State of California Property Tax Postponement for Senior, Blind or Disabled Citizens Program
- B. CSMFO Surveys

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Fil
Finance Director

Jack R. Crist
City Manager

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Controller *John Chiang*

California State Controller's Office

Property Tax Postponement for Senior Citizens, Blind or Disabled Citizens

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Property Tax Postponement Program allows eligible homeowners to postpone payment of part or all of the property taxes on their residence. To participate in this program, the homeowner must complete the claim form and submit it to the State Controller's Office. A claim form must be filed each year the individual desires to have their property taxes postponed. Upon approval of the claim, the State Controller's Office will mail Certificates of Eligibility to the homeowner. The homeowner must mail or take the Certificates of Eligibility to the county tax collector's office to postpone the property taxes due.

To secure the postponed amount, the State Controller's Office records a lien against the property. Interest is charged on the postponed taxes on a simple interest basis. The postponed amount and interest are not due until: (1) the homeowner moves from the qualified property; (2) the homeowner sells or conveys title to the home; (3) the homeowner dies and does not have a spouse, or registered domestic partner, or other qualified individual who continues to reside in the home; or (4) future property taxes or other senior liens are allowed to become delinquent. However, the homeowner may pay all or part of the obligation before it becomes due.

You may qualify for additional assistance. The Homeowner Assistance Program is a separate program administered by the Franchise Tax Board (FTB). If you qualify, you may participate in both the Homeowner Assistance Program and the Property Tax Postponement Programs. The State Controller's Office encourages you to participate in the Homeowner's Assistance Program, because any assistance you receive is used to reduce the amount of the obligation secured by the property tax postponement lien.

To obtain a Homeowner Assistance claim form (FTB9000), contact FTB at (800) 868-4171. The annual filing period for the Homeowner Assistance Program is from July 1st, through October 15th.

- Eligibility Requirements
 - Age, Blindness, or Disability
 - Occupancy
 - Income
 - Equity
- Property Tax Bill
- Delinquent Taxes
- Cooperative Housing Corporation
- Leasehold (Possessory) Interest
- Life Estate
- Interest Rate on Postponed Taxes
- Homeowner Assistance Program
- Account Transfer to New Residence
- Subordination Provisions
- Account Statement
- Payments

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- To be eligible for property tax postponement, you must meet each of the following requirements.

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AGE, BLINDNESS, OR DISABILITY

- You must be either 62 years of age or older as of December 31, 2008, or be blind or disabled at the time of application. All other recorded owners (except spouse, registered domestic partner, and direct-line relatives) must also meet this requirement. If you are disabled, your disability must be expected to last for a continuous period of at least 12 months or longer.

Direct-line relatives are defined as (a) parents, children, or grandchildren of the claimant and/or the claimant's spouse, and (b) the spouses of the relatives named in (a).

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OCCUPANCY

- You must have owned and occupied the property as your principal place of residence as of December 31, 2007 and continuously since then. All other recorded owners (except spouse, registered domestic partner, and direct-line relatives) must also meet this requirement.

You are still eligible for postponement if: (1) you are temporarily confined to a hospital or medical institution for medical reasons; (2) the property was the principal place of residence immediately prior to confinement; and (3) the residence is not rented.

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INCOME

- To be eligible for the program your total household income must be \$35,500 or less for calendar year 2007. Household income is the total income received by all persons (except minors, full-time students, and renters) who resided in the home during 2007.

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EQUITY

- You and all other owners must have a combined 20% equity interest in the home at the time of application. The application cannot be approved if the total amount of liens, deeds of trust, mortgages, or other encumbrances against the home exceeds 80% of its fair market value as determined by the State Controller.

Reverse Mortgages generally result in a decrease to the equity over the life of the mortgage, and can result in zero equity at some point. The Property Tax Postponement (PTP) loan will not be made unless the State's interest in repayment is adequately protected. If you have a reverse mortgage, you must provide additional documentation. See [Required Documentation](#).

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PROPERTY TAX BILL

- You must submit a copy of your most recent secured property tax bill. Tax bills are mailed by the county tax collector on or before November 1 of each year.

EXCEPTION: If you are a tenant-stockholder in a cooperative housing corporation, you are not required to submit a copy of the property tax bill. See [Cooperative Housing Corporation](#) for more information.

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DELINQUENT TAXES

- In some instances delinquent taxes are eligible for postponement. The property taxes must have become delinquent after the homeowner became 62 years of age, or blind, or disabled.

If you are 62 or older and owe delinquent taxes for prior years, you must pay the county tax collector for all taxes that became delinquent prior to your 62nd birthday. If you are blind or disabled and owe delinquent taxes for prior years, you must pay the county tax collector for all taxes that became delinquent prior to the

time you became disabled or blind. If you own a mobile home or floating home, you must first pay all prior-year delinquent taxes before using the Certificates of Eligibility to pay the current year's taxes.

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MOBILEHOME OR FLOATING HOME

- A mobilehome or floating home must be on the secured property tax roll of the county in which it is situated. You must obtain the written consent of all registered and legal owners and all junior lien holders. Also, you must submit a copy of your certificate of title issued by the State Department of Housing and Community Development. As mentioned above, prior-year delinquent taxes are not eligible for postponement. If you own a mobilehome or floating home and meet the program eligibility requirements, the State Controller's Office will mail you a security agreement for your signature. After the State Controller's Office receives the signed security agreement, Certificates of Eligibility will be issued to you.

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COOPERATIVE HOUSING CORPORATION

- Tenant-stockholders own shares in a cooperative housing corporation, which entitles them to occupy for dwelling purposes a house or apartment in a building owned by the corporation. If you are a tenant-stockholder and meet the program eligibility requirements, the State Controller's Office will mail you a Notice of Election to Postpone and a Recognition Agreement. These forms must be completed and executed by you and an officer of the housing corporation. You must then return the forms to the State Controller's Office along with a statement signed by the officer of the housing corporation that indicates the amount of your proportionate share of the property taxes. Upon approval of the Notice of Election to Postpone, the State Controller's Office will issue warrants to you, in the amount you have elected to postpone. The cooperative housing corporation must allow the stock certificates to be rendered to the State Controller's Office as collateral for the postponement of property taxes.

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LEASEHOLD (POSSESSORY) INTEREST

- A leasehold (possessory) interest property is land in California that an individual does not own but has the right to possess and occupy. If you have a leasehold interest, it must be for a period of no less than 45 years from the time you first filed for postponement. You must submit a copy of the recorded lease agreement and policy of title insurance. If you meet the eligibility requirements, the State Controller's Office will mail you a Notice of Election to Postpone. This form must be completed and executed along with: (a) an assignment of the remaining term of the leasehold interest; and (b) additional security in the form of a deed of trust. Fee owners and leasehold parties of interest are required to sign consent forms. Upon approval of the Notice of Election to Postpone, the State Controller's Office will issue Certificates of Eligibility to you.

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LIFE ESTATE OR CONTRACT OF SALE

- A life estate entitles a person to a lifetime residence on real property owned by another person. A contract of sale is an agreement for the purchase of property in which the title remains in the seller's name until the completion of the contract. If your residence is based on a life estate or is under a contract of sale, you must have written consent to postpone property taxes. The consent must be given by the remainderman, i.e., the person(s) who will own the property when you die, or by the person(s) who holds title to the property under the contract of sale. You must include all consent documents with the postponement application when you file it with the State Controller's Office. Upon approval of the postponement application, the State Controller's Office will issue Certificates of Eligibility to you.

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INTEREST RATE ON POSTPONED TAXES

- Interest is computed monthly on postponed amounts on a simple interest basis (the annual interest rate divided by 12). Interest continues to accrue on the postponement account until all postponed taxes plus interest are repaid to the State. The interest rate is set in July of each year based on the annual yield of the State's Pooled Money Investment Account and applies only to that particular year's postponed taxes.

The following table shows the annual interest rates since 1977-78.

Fiscal Year	Rate
1977-78 - 1983-84	7% per annum
1984-85 - 1986-87	10% per annum
1987-88 - 1988-89	7% per annum
1989-90 - 1991-92	9% per annum
1992-93	6% per annum
1993-94 - 2000-01	5% per annum
2001-02	6% per annum
2002-03 - 2003-04	3% per annum
2004-05 - 2005-06	2% per annum
2006-07	4% per annum
2007-08	5% per annum

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HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

→ The Homeowner Assistance Program is a separate program administered by the Franchise Tax Board (FTB). If you qualify, you may participate in both the Homeowner Assistance and the Property Tax Postponement programs. The Controller's Office encourages you to participate in the Homeowner's Assistance Program, because any assistance you receive is used to reduce the amount of the obligation secured by the property tax postponement lien.

To obtain a Homeowner Assistance claim form (FTB9000), contact FTB at (800) 852-5711 or (800) 868-4171. The annual filing period for the Homeowner Assistance Program is from July 1st, through October 15th.

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ACCOUNT TRANSFER TO NEW RESIDENCE

→ If you pay your postponement account in full and purchase a new residence, you may be eligible to reborrow the amount you repaid to the State. To reborrow the repaid amount, you must submit an application of transfer within six months after you paid the postponement account. Call the State Controller's Office to request an application. If your application is approved, the State Controller's Office will send you a refund and record a new lien against your new residence.

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SUBORDINATION PROVISIONS

→ If you refinance your home or obtain a new loan against the property on which you have postponed taxes, it may not be necessary to pay the postponement lien. The State Controller's Office may subordinate the postponement lien to the new loan if it determines that subordination is appropriate. However, your lender must agree to the subordination. If you do not wish to pay off the postponement lien, have your lender contact the State Controller's Office for further instructions.

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ACCOUNT STATEMENT

→ The State Controller's Office provides you with an account statement each year showing the postponement balance. However, you may obtain an account statement at any time by calling (800) 952-5661 or (916) 327-5587, writing to the State Controller's Office at the address:

John Chiang
State Controller
Division of Accounting and Reporting / Property Tax Postponement Program

P. O. Box 942850
Sacramento, CA 94250-5880

or e-mail your request to Postponement@sco.ca.gov.

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PAYMENTS

» You may make full or partial payments on your account before the obligation becomes due. All payments received are applied first toward accumulated interest and then toward the outstanding principal balance (postponed tax amount).

Make your check or money order payable to the California State Treasurer, and mail it to the following address:

John Chiang
State Controller
Division of Accounting and Reporting / Property Tax Postponement Program
P. O. Box 942850
Sacramento, CA 94250-5880

Please include your Social Security number on the check or money order, and on any accompanying documents, to ensure proper credit.

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[Privacy Policy](#)
California State Controller's Office, Controller John Chiang

CSMFO Survey - Water/Sewer - Does your agency offer discounts for seniors and/or low income customers? If so, what are the criteria for the reduced rates?

Agency	Agency Contact	Comments
Amador Water Agency	Michael J. Lee Financial Services Manager (209) 257-5207	No we do not because we are a public agency. Our attorney says we are not permitted under state code to provide such discounts as they are discriminatory in nature.
Capintaria Valley Water District	Norma Rosales	We have a Lifeline Program. We offer 20% of Monthly Service Charges for customer that are on the Edison Care Program. It comes out to be approx \$11 discount. We've been told that the discount may not hold up due to Prop 218. There are quite a few mobile home parks in our community so this really helps out the retired and low income. I presume we'll keep offering it until someone opposes it. I believe the total annual cost is approx \$20K.
City of Anderson	Kelly Parker Accountant	We are not offering any Senior rate on water but we are currently offering a one time Sewer Rebate for Senior Citizens that meet the income qualifications. I'm not sure if that helps but we are a fairly small city.
City of Antioch	Lisa Saunders	For water bills & per ordinance, we do allow a small discount, hich is a reduction in the monthly water maintenance fee, currently \$8.00 per month. You can visit our site at www.ci.antioch.ca.us , section 6-5.01 c, rates.
City of Brisbane	Stuart Schillinger	Low income customers. Must be on PG&E lifeline rate.Discount is 19%
City of Burlingame	Jesus Nava Finance Director/ Treasurer (650) 558-7222	No
City of Calabasas	Gary Lysik	City of Calabasas offers a Utility User's Tax Exemption for qualified, retired citizens.
City of Calistoga	David W. Spilman Administrative Services Director/ City Treasurer (707) 942-2803	We offer a low income reduced water rate for volume charges only. It is based on the PG&E Care Program. We use a copy of the PG&E bill showing Care eligibility as our criteria for eligibility.
City of Camarillo	Anita Lawrence Director of Finance (805) 388-5320	To qualify for low-income senior rates, you must be 62 or older, have a total household taxable income of less than \$15,690 (individual) or \$15,925 (2-person household) per year, and use 10 HCF for less of water per month.
City of Cloverdale	Barry Whitley Finance Director (707) 894-1717	We have both water and wastewater. No specific discounts for seniors are offered. We did have one senior propose to make the wastewater charges for residential tied to water consumption. We told him we would consider that in 5 to 6 years when we do another full analysis on it.
City of Cotati	Jone Hayes	Not Seniors, specifically. 10% discount for those who qualify for PGE Care Program.

CSMFO Survey - Water/Sewer - Does your agency offer discounts for seniors and/or low income customers? If so, what are the criteria for the reduced rates?

Agency	Agency Contact	Comments
Delta Diablo Sanitation District	Paul Rankin Administrative Services Manager (925) 756-1935	I am not an attorney - but it was my understanding that doing so as part of regular rates could create Prop. 218 conflicts. I have heard of agencies with other sources of funds - i.e. cities with Redevelopment money or General Fund offsetting discounts.
City of Encinitas	Darlene Hill	San Dieguito Water District (San Diego County) does not have provisions for Senior Citizens. We do have a tiered rate structures that does help seniors as they tend to use less water and therefore pay less.
Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District	Helen Del Rosario (707) 429-8930	The discount idea was brought up by at least a couple of our board members during our recent rate study, but after everything else was considered it was decided that it was economically feasible without raising the rates on other residential users. So the short answer is "no" we do not offer discounts for any customer classification.
City of Folsom	Anne Clayton Revenue Supervisor (916) 355-7228	Folsom offers low income rates for water and solid waste. We have no low income rates for Regional Sanitation or Sewer. Criteria are based on specific household gross income amounts (based on HUD guidelines) to qualify for the Utility Assistance Program Rate.
City of Fort Bragg	Rosana Cimolino Sr Government Account (707) 961-2825	Just did a rate study to set our water/wastewater rates for the next five years. According to our consultants Prop 218 does not allow a discount for Seniors or low income or any other differences in the way that the rates are changed. The rate has to be set strictly on the cost to provide the service
City of Gilroy	Irma Navarro Revenue Officer	We do not offer discounts, per say. Our rates are based on a tier rate system. Seniors that qualify for PGE Care Program are eligible to have the first tier of 5,000 gallons at \$0
City of Hughson	Deborah L. Paul Director of Finance Treasurer	No on water. We were told by legal counsel that it would be against the law. The rates on the enterprise funds are suppose to cover expenses.
City of Grover Beach	Eve L. Byrd Assistant Admin. Director (805) 473-4558	No. Everyone pays the same rate. However, since most seniors use substantially less water than say a family of four, their water bill be less due to the lower consumption.
City of Huntington Beach	James Slobojan Fiscal Srv Mgr (714) 960-8820	We offer an exemption for the UUT based on income. We also offer a 50% discount on their trash rate.
City of Kingsburg	Don Jensen	Yes in Kingsburg-catuually in our refuse of \$1.00 per month. They do also get a smaller container.
Lake Arrowhead Community Services District	Kathy Cortner Finance Manager (909) 336-7103	We looked into this, however we were advised by legal council that we can not legally offer discounts to seniors or low income rate payers. The only way we would be able to offer this service would be to have all customers contribute towards a fund to pay a portion of the seniors or low income rate payers fees. You may want to check with your attorney on this.

CSMFO Survey - Water/Sewer - Does your agency offer discounts for seniors and/or low income customers? If so, what are the criteria for the reduced rates?

Agency	Agency Contact	Comments
City of Millbrae	Jeff Killian	If they bring evidence from the phone company or PGE that they are on a life line discount program with that company that we will accept that and give them a discounted rate-age is not a factor
Montara Water and Sanitary District	George F. Irving District Manager (650) 728-3545	No, but we are planning to implement a two-tier rate structure where those who use over 19 HCF per billing period (2 months) are charged a higher rate.
City of Morgan Hill	Lisa Maier (408) 779-7221	Yes, we offer a low income discount. The customer must provide us a copy of their PG&E bill or their telephone bill that shows they are receiving the low income discount through the other utility provider. The copy must reflect the name and address as it appears on their water account, as well as the shown discount rate (ie: care or lifeline).
City of Morro Bay	Jim Koser Finance Director (805) 772-7329	We have a water utility which we offer 10% discount on the first 10 units. Customers can qualify by proving that they are on a similar plan with any other utility such as PG&E, So Cal Gas, etc.
Orange County Sanitation District	Gary G. Streed Director of Finance (714) 593-7550	We only provide wastewater services. We do not provide discounts.
City of Pismo Beach	Susan West-Jones Acct Manager (805) 773-7012	We offer a discount to Low Income residents. We basically ask them to qualify by providing a copy of their PG&E bill that state they're Low Income. We charge tht consumption only for Water
City of Pittsburg	Margaret Padua	
City of Pleasanton	Ann Riley Revenue Manager (925) 931-5427	The City of Pleasanton offers both a senior discount of 20% at age 62 and a low income discount of 30% if the customer qualifies for the PG&E Care program.
City of Poway	Tina White Dir of Adm Svcs (858) 668-4413	No. City Attorney has opined that it would violate Prop 218. Every class of customer is supposed to pay their fair share. Our only option would be to subsidize a senior discount out of our General Fund.
City of Redlands	Mike Reynolds	Since many senior citizens have more money that younger folks, would it make more sense to base a discount on low income rather than age? Just a thought.
City of Ridgecrest	Jim Winegardner	We only have wastewater, and no, we don't. It is my understanding that any discount program in an enterprise utility would have to be reimbursed by the General Fund.
City of Ripon	Lynette Van Laar City Clerk/Finance Director	Discounts for low income residents for water, garbage & sewer. They can be seniors, but because they don't qualify. Discounts are based on annual adjusted gross income, from income tax return, or if no tax return is filed, they show proof of their income with a copy of monthly or annual social security, retirement, etc

CSMFO Survey - Water/Sewer - Does your agency offer discounts for seniors and/or low income customers? If so, what are the criteria for the reduced rates?

Agency	Agency Contact	Comments
City of Rohnert Park	Deborah Lauchner Finance Services Manager	We offer a low income discount of 20%. We use the PG&E Low-Income Energy Efficiency Program (LIEE) rate. This is published on the California PUC web site.
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	Marcia Maurer	Yes - We use low income guidelines as established by Pacific Bell and SMUD. The current income guidelines and general information are attached.
City of San Bruno	Alissa Lee Accounting and Customer Service Representative (650) 616-7029)	The City of San Bruno currently offers a 25% discount to low income customers only. The income guidelines are based on information gathered from the California Housing and Community Development Department specific to San Mateo County.
City of San Luis Obispo	Bill Statler Director of Finance & Info Technology (805)781-7125	We offer discounts to low income customers based on standards used by PG&E and Southern California Gas Company. However, under the Big Horn Prop 218 decision, this subsidy cannot be paid from water or sewer fees. As outlined in the attached report, our General Fund now pays for this.
City of Sebastopol	Ron Puccinelli Finance Director	The City of Sebastopol does not discriminate against young families or wealthy couples by charging them higher rates than seniors or low income customers. Seriously, we had a hard time trying to justify that practice where it would not be a "gift of public funds". In Sonoma County, the County has responsibility for the welfare department.
City of Stockton	Mark Moses Director of Admin. Services (209) 937-8398	We have it for solid waste and recycling. These programs are very difficult to administer because people may move in and out of eligibility and you have to have a solid process for verification (including how you establish initial eligibility and validate the ongoing eligibility. See website: http://www.stocktongov.com/recycle/pages/discounts.cfm
Tuolumne Utilities District	Dick Pattinson	We are a county water district organized pursuant to Water Code 3000 et seq. (i.e. County Water District Law). There is no explicit authority in the Water Code whereby we could lawfully vary the price based upon a customer's perceived ability to pay. The implied authority to do so may be found in section 31007 of the Water Code; however, such an argument is legally tenuous. What we did to solve this problem is to establish a Conservation Water Rate that is offered to all customers. The requirement is that the average monthly usage shall not be more than 500 cf of water. This rate has been in effect for over one year and thus far we have only 98 customers out of 13,000 that are in this rate category. All of the elderly and low income households that asked for a special rate at our Rate Hearings, are using this category. You may recall that cities can have low income/elderly rates because they can subsidize the revenue shortfall with their General Fund. Water Districts, on the other hand, cannot social engineer their rates without including any revenue difference as operating expense to be spread to the rest of the customer rate base.
City of Tustin	Ron Nault	Tustin does not provide discounts but we have a tiered rate structure with the first tier set at 12 units \$0.49 per unit. This is effectively a Sr or Lifeline rate.

CSMFO Survey - Water/Sewer - Does your agency offer discounts for seniors and/or low income customers? If so, what are the criteria for the reduced rates?

Agency	Agency Contact	Comments
City of Vacaville	Anna Lazazzera Financial Services Supervisor (707) 449-5125	We offer 15% off for Senior Citizens on both water consumption & basic meter charge.
Cucamonga Valley	Will Kolbow Accounting Officer (909) 483-7414	We have received requests for this type of rate from senior citizens in our community and legal counsel has advised us this is probably no permissible under Prop 218.
Dublin San Ramon	Lori Rose Financial Srvc Mgr (925) 875-2470	
Foster City	Lin-lin Cheng	No discounts are offered to anyone. Have suggested our customers to approach our council members to make the request, no customer has taken a further step on the discount request.
Fountain Valley	Amanda Penaloz Accounts Rec (714) 593-4532	For the City of Fountain Valley we do not offer a Senior Discount or any other discount on water. All we have is 10% senior discount for customers who pay for trash & recycling.
Joshua Basin	Susan Greer	Attorney has advised that such discounts are a gift of public funds. This is because one group of customers (non-seniors in this case) pays more so that another group (seniors) can pay less.
Laguna Beach Water District	Bob Westphal Mgr of Finance	Our attorney says it's illegal to offer one set of customers a discount.
Lakewood City	Diane Perkin	If a discount is given, the offset has to come from the General Fund. Rate payers cannot be required to subsidize other rate payers.
Lemoore	Nancy Cota	We do not.
Long Beach	Linda Nixon	Long Beach offers a reduced rate on the first 5 billing units (ccf) of water to qualified seniors, provided the meter serves only one residential unit. The savings is currently \$.73 per ccf, for a maximum \$3.65. In addition, they are exempt from paying the 5% UUT on all water charges.
Marina Coast Water District	Suresh Prasad Director of Finance	Were told by our consultant that it is not a good idea, especially when the rates have to go out of Prop 218 increases.
Montecito Water District	Toni Bailey	After consulting with legal counsel, we determined that discounts are not allowed by the water code.

CSMFO Survey - Water/Sewer - Does your agency offer discounts for seniors and/or low income customers? If so, what are the criteria for the reduced rates?

Agency	Agency Contact	Comments
	CPA (805) 969-2271	Do not offer any type of billing discount
Rincon del Diablo	Darlene Lynn	For people who use 12 units or less (12,000 gallons) in a two-month billing cycle, we discount their meter charge by 30%
Town of Windsor	Jim McAdler	We used to but not anymore because the subsidy has to be paid by the General Fund(not enterprise funds)
Ventura Regional Sanitation District	Sherrill Smith Director of Finance and Administration (805) 658-4608	The Ventura Regional Sanitation, Triunfo Sanitation, and Saticoy Sanitary Districts do not.
Vista Irrigation District	Eldon Boone (760) 597-3139	No, our agency does not provide discounts to seniors or low income customers. We do provide discounts to farmers willing to sign an agreement that they will be the first customers to lose water service during a period of water shortage.

**ECONOMIC HARDSHIP AID
7/1/2008**

	Organization Name	Discount Rate		Available For	Backfilled with GF?	Total Cost	Other Notes	Contact
		Yes	No					
1	City of Brisbane	X		17%	PG&E CARE Program	No	\$6,000	Stuart Schillinger (415) 508-2151
2	Redwood City		X					
3	Atherton		X					
4	Burlingame		X					
5	San Mateo		X					
6	Millbrae	X		5%	Lifeline accounts with phone or PG&E	No		
7	Hillsborough School District	X		Parcel Tax Exemption	Seniors 65 and over			(650) 637-4800
8	City of Palo Alto	X		20%	discount on all utilities based on financial need (see attached)	No		
9	County of San Mateo		X					
10	East Bay Municipal Utility District	X		50% bimonthly service charge reduction, 30% account fee reduction	Those who qualify (monthly household income criteria)			
11	Modesto Irrigation District	X		22.5% of total usage; flat rate discounted \$12.50 to \$5.00	Discount on Electricity; based on income (165% federal poverty guideline)		11,000 people on program - costs MID approx \$3 million/year	*3-year certification; also offer medical support program Ken H. (209) 526-7349
12	City of Modesto	X		25% discount on utilities	Senior discount; permanently disabled only; under \$22,400/year	Yes	approx. \$250,000/year	
13	Turlock Irrigation District	X		15% off rate. \$11 flat rate discounted to \$2	Based on low income and # of people in home		approx. \$950,000/year	Recommend using senior age qualifier instead of low income. Also offer medical support program Nancy (209) 883-8506
14	PG&E	X		20% discount on bill	CARE Program for low income and senior citizens; good for few years			Also offer FERA (perform audits to help reduce usage) and REACH - one time payment assistance (will cover the cost of one bill up to \$300 ONE TIME ONLY in 18-month period with exceptions for seniors and others) Roxanne Cruz (650) 291-9894
15	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission	X		15% discount on water service & 35% discount on sewer service charges	Low income; based on guidelines			Montien (415) 551-3090

Organization Name		Yes	No	Discount Rate	Available For	Backfilled with GF?	Total Cost	Other Notes	Contact
16	Sacramento Municipal Utility District	X		30% on utility bill	Low income; based on guidelines		approx. \$5 million 57,000 participants	2-year recertification; also offer medical support discount (30%) and one time bill relief (\$200)	Cindy Gabriel (916) 732-6189