

Hello Neighbor,

A couple of things of interest:

1. PSWID Rate Hearing Scheduled for May 21st at 7:00 PM

- This will be the public's opportunity to comment on the rates that are being proposed by the board for when they are running the water system.
- The board is proposing to continue using the current rates. The details on those rates can be found here:
<http://www.waterforpinestrawberry.com/data%20pages/BudgetDocs.htm>
- Comment: The board has gone to a lot of trouble to create a single water system. It isn't right to treat rate payers within the same system differently. That said, they are up against a deadline, so if this is just a temporary move to get things started until they have time to get a study of what the rates actually need to be, then it should be acceptable to start with the current rates.
- Comment: One thing that they do need change in the proposed rates is that only Pine rate payers will pay for water hauling. Since we will now all be using the same bucket of water, everyone should share in the cost of water hauling.
- Comment: There is an interesting note at the bottom of the rate document. It says:
"NOTE: rates presented are net of any sales taxes currently collected by Brooke. Upon system acquisition, District reserves right to make one-time adjustment (if necessary) to ensure that any sales taxes that may be collected by Brooke are accrued by District. Any required adjustment would be intended to ensure that there would be no net change in monthly water charges."

As I have pointed out in the past, one of the errors in the Economists.com analysis is that they count sales tax collections as operational income. They have vehemently denied that, but it seems that they are covering their bases. What the note proposes is that when they find out that they are wrong about the sales tax being included in Brooke's revenue numbers, that the district will increase the rates by the amount of the sales tax. This assumes that they don't have to continue collecting sales tax for the state/county. When I lived in the Valley, the city owned water company charged sales tax on water usage. That the board doesn't seem to know what the requirements for sales tax collection are seems troubling.

2. Special PSWID Meeting Scheduled for May 12th at 7:00 PM

- No indication as to the topics to be discussed

3. Payson Roundup Editorial

- In an editorial in the Payson Roundup I outline some of the concerns over the last year. You can find it here:
http://www.paysonroundup.com/news/2009/may/08/pswid_has_trouble_representing_community/

This email is from the group Water For Pine Strawberry. We will be sending out an email after each of the PSWID meetings with a summary of what the board did, additional facts that are relevant to what went on, and some commentary. Please forward this email to friends and neighbors that are interested in the local water issues. If you would like to be

added to or removed from the list for these emails, please reply to WaterForPineStrawberry@hotmail.com. Emails on earlier meetings are available on our website: www.WaterForPineStrawberry.com .

Water For Pine Strawberry is a group of residents who are concerned about the communities water issues and how they can best be resolved. Visit our web site, www.WaterForPineStrawberry.com, for more information. The website for PSWID is www.pswid.org .

Clarifications can be submitted by anyone who is explicitly named, implicitly identifiable, or a board member to items in this email. Clarifications will be posted on our website. We reserve the right to post a response. Clarifications must deal with the topics discussed in the email that relate to the individual or the board. They must be in family friendly language and be non-abusive. When the clarification is accepted, it will be posted to the website and notice of that posting will be added to the next email.