

A message Mason Creek Utility District (MCUD)

Mason Creek Utility District (MCUD) will begin to routinely provide an update in the NCCIA newsletter and [www.m cud.com](http://www.m cud.com) on matters related to District news, water rates, water usage, infrastructure expenses, planned developments plus regional issues such as water conservation, groundwater reduction, and surface water conversions. This, the first in a series of updates, will provide insight on conservation and current water rates.

Water is quickly becoming a scarce commodity in many regions of the state, and MCUD has felt the effects of this firsthand in recent years. The level of the water table has dropped more than 33 feet in the last six (6) years. The Harris-Galveston Subsidence District and the City of Houston regulate how much groundwater can be pumped, now, and ultimately how much groundwater pumpage must be converted to surface water in future years. These regulations, combined with an aging infrastructure of underground piping and water systems that must be repaired and replaced more frequently as it gets older, continue to pose increased financial burdens on MCUD. In recent years MCUD has been able to maintain a stable tax rate that has so far successfully met the financial needs and obligations necessary to maintain a safe water supply and keep up with the increased cost of sanitary sewers, street lights, trash collection and other services.

In 2014 the district updated the water rate structure to better reflect current market conditions and begin to more proactively encourage conservation in response to recent years of drought and regulatory changes. In January of 2014 the district reduced the volume covered by the minimum water bill to 3,000 gallons per month from 6,000 gallons per month while also increasing the rate per thousand gallons above the minimum-bill volume. MCUD witnessed a very successful reduction in overall water consumption in 2014 of approximately 19 million gallons. MCUD's current tax rate went down slightly, to \$0.3345 per \$100 from \$0.346 per \$100, due to the increased value of homes in the District. For year 2015 there is no change to the minimum water-sewer bills, while the rate for water consumed above the minimum has increased by 1.5% effective in January. For residents that consume 10,000 gallons or less per month, this is an increase of only \$0.28 cents per month; for those that consume 15,000 gallons, this is an increase of \$0.63 cents per month.

In 2003, MCUD was required to establish a groundwater reduction plan (GRP) to convert 30% of its water consumption to surface water. Recognizing that the City of Houston (COH) was the only source of surface water available in the region, MCUD joined the COH's GRP to comply with groundwater regulations. Pumpage fees and other GRP regulations have become significant expenses for MCUD in recent years. Small or incremental rate increases periodically ensure that the District is financially prepared to comply with these and other requirements while providing safe and reliable water supplies to the public.

This update information and much more is also available at [www.m cud.com](http://www.m cud.com). Any questions or inquiries please direct them to [directors@mcud.com](mailto:directors@mcud.com).

## CURRENT UTILITIES RATES

| CURRENT MINIMUM RATES |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| GALLONS               | 0-3,000 |
| TCEQ                  | 0.20    |
| SEWER                 | 20.00   |
| WATER                 | 20.00   |
| GWR                   | 3.00    |
| Total                 | 43.20   |

| CURRENT TIER RATES |                  |                   |                   |                |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| GALLONS            | 3,001-<br>10,000 | 10,001-<br>15,000 | 15,001-<br>20,000 | OVER<br>20,001 |
| TCEQ               | 0.02             | 0.03              | 0.03              | 0.04           |
| SEWER              | 1.97             | 2.63              | 2.89              | 2.89           |
| WATER              | 1.97             | 2.99              | 3.29              | 5.07           |
| GWR                | 1.00             | 1.00              | 1.00              | 1.00           |
| Total              | 4.96             | 6.65              | 7.21              | 9.00           |

| WATER ONLY |            |             |           |
|------------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| 0-5 TGALS  | 6-10 TGALS | 11-17 TGALS | 18+ TGALS |
| 1.97       | 2.99       | 3.29        | 5.07      |

## MASON CREEK UPDATED RATE ORDER (PDF)

## CURRENT TAX RATES

| CURRENT TAX RATE                             |
|--|
| \$0.346 FOR EACH \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUATION |

## BOB LEARED INTEREST TAX OFFICE