



11/14/23 Item 10.1 Sewer Ordinance

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To: pv.citycouncil@cityofplacerville.org

Mon, Nov 13, 2023 at 7:37 PM

The Honorable Mayor and City Council,

As stated in my letter and public comment to the Council in October, I have been a homeowner in the City of Placerville for the past ten years. I not only live in the City but work on Main Street. Like many other people, I am considering moving out of the City due to high Sales and Use Taxes and utility costs without a higher level of service.

As a note, the draft ordinance states that “on October 24, 2023, the City Council held a duly noticed public hearing, found that the Ordinance was exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15304 and 15308; and introduced the Ordinance waiving the first reading.” However that did not occur as your draft minutes state, “it was moved by Mayor Saragosa and seconded by Councilmember Gotberg that the City Council table the item to a future date (to be determined), establish an Ad-hoc committee of two council members to work with Staff on revisions to the draft ordinance.”

I was shocked at the October 24, 2023, meeting to learn that City staff are repairing private sewer lines and not recouping the cost of those repairs. So limited tax dollars are haphazardly going to repair private property. I urge the City to find a way to add the cost of repairs to homeowners sewer bills and to consistently collect these expenses.

As a City resident I pay higher sewer rates with a lower level of service compared to those living in the unincorporated areas of Placerville. Placerville’s sewer rates are \$205.81 for the first 7.5 hundred cubic feet. El Dorado Irrigation District’s (EID) current rates are \$0.041091 per cubic foot with a \$69.58 base charge, so the Placerville minimum of 7.5 hundred cubic feet would cost \$100.40. Placerville sewer costs are 104% higher than EID. EID maintains the sewer lateral from the cleanout near the property line to the sewer main, as outlined at <https://www.eid.org/customers/sewer-issues>. Residents of the City of Placerville pay more in Sales and Use Tax due to the voter-approved Measure H. This tax revenue has and can be used to maintain the City Sewer System.

I ask you again to consider my request to determine an appropriate fee that would make it feasible for the City to maintain the sewer lateral from the main to the cleanout near the property line. This would make City sewer service comparable to that of EID. This would limit the responsibility to maintain the sewer to my property. This would show that the City is willing to find a compromise and not just add more costs to City residents.

Please consider my request that the City maintain the lateral from the main to the cleanout near the property line/sidewalk.

Thank you,

Zachary Kragel