

ORDINANCE NO. 820 N.S.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES
AMENDING SECTIONS 14.04.020 AND 14.16.020 OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE
ROBLES MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADJUST SEWER AND WATER USER FEES

WHEREAS, the City Council determined that it was necessary and desirable to conduct a complete review of water and sewer user fees to ensure that those fees correspond to the City's cost of providing water and sewer services; and

WHEREAS, the City contracted with Hilton, Farnkopf & Hobson, LLC, an engineering firm, to review and evaluate the City's water and sewer user fees and the costs of providing water and sewer services; and

WHEREAS, Hilton, Farnkopf & Hobson prepared a report that substantiates the need for the proposed fee increases, and recommends that the City increase its sewer and water user fees in amounts that will cover the City's cost of providing water and sewer service to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Hilton, Farnkopf & Hobson report has been available for public review and comment from since October 16, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the City Council introduced the proposed sewer and water user fee increases on October 16, 2001, and held a workshop on October 30, 2001 to solicit public input on the proposed sewer and water user fee increases and further heard public comment on the proposed fee increases at the regular City Council meeting on November 20, 2001 and December 18, 2001 as advertised public hearings.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Subdivision C of Section 14.04.020 of the Paso Robles Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

“C. FEES—WATER USAGE RATES. The monthly rates to be charged and collected by the water department for all water consumption including private fire lines, bulk water delivery or fire hydrant usage from every person, school, firm or corporation shall be charged at rates established by ordinance of the city council. Other than as expressly set forth herein, such water usage rates may only be established or amended by a two-thirds vote of the city council in favor of such establishment or amendment of water usage rates.

Effective March 1, 2002, the base water usage fee shall be \$17.28 for up to 2,000 cubic feet of water per customer for each two-month billing period, and \$0.77 per 100 cubic feet of water over 2,000 cubic feet.

The base water usage fee established in this section shall be modified annually beginning July 1, 2003 and each July 1 thereafter by the increase in the Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose Region as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the year ending April of each year.

The water usage fees shall further be reviewed no less than bi-annually in conjunction with the update of the City's budget to ensure that the sewer and water connection fees then in existence do not exceed the costs of providing water service within the City.”

SECTION 2. Section 14.16.020 of the Paso Robles Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

“14.16.020 Sewer charges

Every person whose premises are served by a connection with the system of sewerage of the city, whereby the sewage or industrial wastes, or either or both, are disposed of by the city through the sewage treatment plant, or otherwise, shall pay a sewer service charge established by ordinance of the city council. Other than as expressly provided herein, the rates for such sewer service fee shall only be established or amended by a two-thirds vote of the city council in favor of such establishment or amendment of sewer service rates.

Effective March 1, 2002, the base sewer service fee for all customers shall be \$30.00 per two-month billing period. Effective January 1, 2003, the base sewer service fee shall be increased to \$35.30 per two-month billing period. Effective January 1, 2004, the base sewer service charge for all customers shall be increased to \$40.86 per billing period. Residential customers shall pay only the base sewer service charge. Nonresidential customers shall pay the base sewer service charge for 1,000 cubic feet of metered water and shall pay an additional charge of \$1.07 for each additional 100 cubic feet of metered water used by said nonresidential customer. Metered landscape water is not included in the determination of sewer service charges.

Effective July 1, 2005, the sewer service charges established in this section shall be modified annually each July 1 by the increase in the Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose Region as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the year ending April of each year.

The sewer service charges shall further be reviewed no less than bi-annually in conjunction with the update of the City's budget to ensure that the sewer service fees then in existence do not exceed the costs of providing sewer service within the City.”

SECTION 3. Severability If any action, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is, for any reason, held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

Introduced for first reading at a regular meeting of the City Council held on December 18, 2001, and passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles on the 3rd day of January 2002 by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Finigan, Heggarty, Nemeth, Picanco and Mecham
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Frank Mecham, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sharilyn M. Ryan, Deputy City Clerk