

To the City of Mountain View, CA, City Clerk's Office

RE: Proposed Utility Rate Increases, for the year 2024-2025

As a senior citizen on a fixed income, I object to the proposed July 1, 2024 increase in utility bills. Utilities are not optional for citizens of any age. Utilities are necessities.

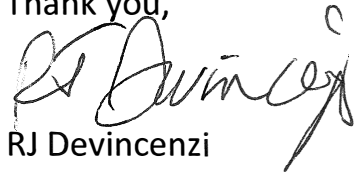
Mountain View has money to spend unwisely, right now, such as giving \$700, no strings attached, to individuals that want to finish their high school education.

Those funds, and other monies that are being spent unwisely, should be used before ever coming to residents and asking for increases in the cost of our basic needs and services.

Most seniors I know have cut back on utilities to the point of ridiculousness, in order to keep their costs *lower*.

Please, reconsider this proposed increase to our Utility Rates.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RJ Devincenzi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

RJ Devincenzi

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JUN 20 2024

CITY CLERK



"I've learned that
people will forget
what you said,
people will forget
what you did, but
people will never
forget how you
made them feel."

—Maya Angelou

I protest the rate increase.
The rate increases are
higher than inflation
during the same time
frame. We cannot control
SF PUC + their pass through,
but I don't see a need
for this 7.1% increase in
addition.

Sincerely,
Kristina Davis



Mtn View

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JUN : 6 2024

CITY CLERK

Protest about increase in Water, Waste-water rates

Affected property address

Parcel Number: [REDACTED]

Person submitting the request: Lalit Kumar

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MAY 21 2024

CITY CLERK

I am strongly opposed to ANY increase in water, waste water, trash/recycling/organic rates for FY24-25, FY25-26, FY26-27, FY27-28, FY28-29

7.1% increase being proposed by the city for the next year is another example of city colluding with greedy corporations to inflict further pain on the general public. I can guarantee the vendors have made no effort to root out inefficiencies from their operations. The vendors know that the sympathetic city officials will happily pass on whatever cost increase they ask for, to the general public. And the city officials hope the general public just doesn't have the time to show up to these meetings and protest.

The maximum I can agree to is 4.87% (contractual). What's the point of setting a contractual % when every year the city sends these notices asking for more.


Lalit Kumar

City of Mountain View
City Clerk
Agenda 062524
P.O. Box 7540
Mountain View 94039-7540

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JUN 25 2024

CITY CLERK

Dear City Council Members,

The proposed utility increases are a burden on the population of Mountain View, in particular, for people who are on fixed incomes, such as the disabled and seniors. The utility increases occur every year without pause and the rate increases are higher than the CPI index. This is of particular concern in the light of the financial irregularities which occurred in 2020, 2021 and 2022, when \$23.4 million more in profits over a four year period were pulled in by Recology. This is more than the city allows in profits. The city had an agreement with Recology for 9% profits. This revelation occurs after Recology paid San Franciscans \$94.5 million to reimburse them for over charges which were uncovered as a part of the City Hall corruption scandal linked to former Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru. The agreement was that the \$23.4 million would not be paid back to customers but would be used to offset any future rate increases. (In the San Francisco Chronicle By [Mallory Moench](#), [J.D. Morris](#) Updated May 17, 2022 6:19 p.m.) Instead, we see that the City of Mountain View is proposing a Recology rate increase of 6% for the coming year.

According to the "Refuse Rate Administrative Hearing" of May 9, 2023, Recology, at that time proposed rate increases of 3.9% and 2.05% for years 2024 and 2025 respectively, substantially less than what is currently being proposed. In addition, at that Administrative Hearing Recology also proposed a 9.89% profit, over the prior agreement of 9% profit. Recology also asked for 100% adjustments. However, it was pointed out that "The structure of a balancing account can help mitigate unintended consequences, but can also create new moral hazards; Recology currently owns all waste collection permits in San Francisco, giving them an effective monopoly. Combined with a balancing account with a 100% adjustment, Recology would have little incentive to control costs. In addition, a 100% adjustments guarantees a

9.89% profit margin (91% OR). "(Source: Refuse Rate Administrative Hearing May 9, 2023)

Recology of San Francisco charges more overall , and in some cases substantially more than other cities or counties . For example, it charges far more than Marin County, Sunnyvale and San Luis Obispo County. (Source: Refuse Rate Administrative Hearing May 9, 2023)

A comparison of Trash illustrates some of the differences:

"A Commercial Rate Comparison of Monthly 1 CY Bin once a week pick up Trash Service;" (Source: Refuse Rate Administrative Hearing , City and County of San Francisco May 9, 2023)

San Francisco = \$282.63

San Mateo County = 170.18

Los Angeles \$252.66

Recology is a monopoly and therefore it is able to overcharge. I submit that greater scrutiny over its practices must occur in order to protect all Mountain View residents, but particularly those on fixed incomes who see their scarce financial resources being drained by a monopoly, Recology.

While we do need to see our Trash recycled, I submit to you that we also need a company that is honest and cost effective.

Thank you for your consideration.

Olga Bright

MV resident

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Olga Bright". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

City of Mountain View
Clerk.

Agenda 062524

P.O. Box 7546

Mountain View, CA 94039-7546

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JUN 25 2024

CITY CLERK