

PO Box 10384

Phone: 530-412-3676

Truckee, CA 96162 Email: catherine@hansfordecon.com

Technical Memorandum

To:

Tom Skjelstad, General Manager

From:

Catherine Hansford

Date: April 7, 2016

Subject: Ski Area Wastewater Fee Comparison

Purpose

On March 8th, the State Water Resource Control Board suggested the Donner Summit Public Utility District (DSPUD) complete a comparison of wastewater fees for ski areas in the western United States. HEC collected information for 23 ski areas located in California, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, and Nevada. Table 1 summarizes the wastewater fees of the comparison ski areas.

Major Findings

The rate comparison makes the following major findings:

- 1. DSPUD's rate structure is on par with other wastewater providers servicing ski areas.
- 2. Of the 17 comparison wastewater purveyors who provide wastewater service to ski areas, 10 bill on a per Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) or per unit basis. Billing on a per unit basis is essentially the same as on a per EDU basis. Because EDU calculations vary from place to place, accurate comparisons of estimated bills cannot be done. Even so, DSPUD's charge per EDU of \$167.00 per month is more than four times greater than the next highest charge per EDU of the wastewater providers surveyed, the City of Big Bear Lake. The City of Big Bear Lake, which provides service to Big Bear and Snow Summit ski areas, has a charge of \$36.49 per EDU per month. Other ski areas paying per EDU or unit include June Mountain, Alpine Meadows, Homewood, Tahoe Donner Downhill, and Northstar in California, Beaver Creek, Vail, and Breckenridge in Colorado, and Alta in Utah.
- 3. Five of the comparison wastewater purveyors bill on a base and flow charge, and 2 bill by flow charge only. Snyderville Basin Water Reclamation District, which provides wastewater services to Park City and Deer Valley, Utah, charges a base rate per EDU and a flow charge based on water meter reads. Snyderville is the only provider with this type of rate structure in the comparison. Kirkwood has the same base charge of \$34.75 for all customers each month. Flow charges are based on monthly water use. Incline Village GID wastewater base charges are by water meter size, and flow charges are based on monthly water use.

- 4. The Town of Jackson, wastewater provider for Snow King, Wyoming, bills based on average winter water use for single family residential and actual water use for all other residential and non-residential customer types. The Town of Jackson is the only provider in the comparison that incorporates wastewater strength (BOD and TSS) factors in its rate structure.
- 5. Unique in the comparison, Squaw PSD charges the ski area a base charge plus flow rate. The flow rate is only applied when <u>sewer</u> flows exceed 75,000 gallons per meter per year. This is the only provider with sewer meters.
- 6. Bear Valley ski area in California and Steamboat Springs in Colorado are charged solely on flow, as measured through their water meters.
- 7. For Squaw Valley, Alpine Meadows, Homewood, and Tahoe Donner Downhill, it should be noted the rate in the table only includes collection fee charges. Wastewater treatment is provided by the Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency (TTSA) and billed under a separate fee schedule. Although Northstar's wastewater treatment service is provided by TTSA, Northstar's TTSA fees are included in their rates. TTSA bills based on the type of units in the resort and/or number of fixtures; essentially a per EDU rate structure. TTSA ski area customers, with the exception of Northstar, pay wastewater treatment fees with property tax bills.

Table 1 Donner Summit PUD Ski Area Wastewater Fees Comparison

DRAFT

Provider	Level of Treatment			Billing Frequency	Bill Basis			Residenti	al Billing	
		Ski Area	Customer Classification			Base per Month	Flow (kgal)	Base per Flo	Flow	
CALIFORNIA						month	riow (kgai)	Month	(kgal)	Notes
Flat Rate								[1]		
Donner Summit PUD								[1]		
Donner Summit PUD	Tertiary	Sugar Bowl	n.a.	Monthly	per EDU	\$167.00				
		Boreal	n.a.	Monthly	per EDU	\$167.00		\$167.00		
		Soda Springs	n.a.	Monthly	per EDU	\$167.00		\$167.00		
		Donner Ski Ranch	n.a.	Monthly	per EDU			\$167.00		
City of Big Bear Lake	No Treatment	Big Bear	n.a.	Annual	per EDU	\$167.00		\$167.00		
		Snow Summit	n.a.	Annual		\$36.49		\$36.49		
2 June Lakes Public Utility District	Secondary	June Mountain	Based on unit type [2]		per EDU	\$36.49		\$36.49		
3 Alpine Springs CWD	No Treatment	Alpine Meadows	Based on fixtures	Monthly	per unit	NOTES		\$24.26		Based on type of units in resort.
		The Inicadows	based on fixtures	Annually	per unit	\$6.52		\$6.52		Units based on the number of bathrooms, kitchen sinks, and garbage disposals. Billed annually
4 Tahoe City Public Utility District	No Treatment	Homewood	December 1997							Resort also pays TTSA semi-annually based on type of units.
5 Truckee Sanitary District	No Treatment		Based on unit type [2]	Quarterly	per unit	NOTES		\$39.95		Based on type of units in second Beauty Days of Units.
6 Northstar CSD	No Treatment		Based on unit type [2]	Monthly	per unit	NOTES		\$14.50		Based on type of units in resort. Resort also pays TTSA semi-annually based on type of units.
7 TTSA (Wastewater Treatment)			Based on unit type [2]	Monthly	per unit	NOTES		\$85.81		Based on type of units in resort. Resort also pays TTSA semi-annually based on type of units.
The state of the s	Tertiary	NOTES	Based on unit type [2]	Semi-Annual	per unit	NOTES		\$25.50		Based on type of units in resort. TTSA fees included in rates.
Flow Rate						110125		\$23.50		Provides wastewater treatment for Alpine, Squaw, Homewood, Tahoe Donner Downhill, and
8 Kirkwood Meadows PUD										Northstar. Rates are based on type of units in resort.
	Tertiary	Kirkwood	n.a.	Monthly	base/flow	\$34.75	\$16.88	40		
Squaw Valley PSD Bear Valley Water District	No Treatment	Squaw Valley	Commercial/Industrial	Annually	base/flow	\$79.50		\$34.75	\$16.88	Base rate not based on EDUs
				· ·····································	base/ now	\$79.50	\$12.74	\$45.00	\$0.00	Billed annually. Squaw has 19 sewer meters. Base charge for each meter and an allowance of
	Primary	Bear Valley	Commercial	Monthly	flow	ÅD DO	4			75,000 gallons.
				wichting	IIOW	\$0.00	\$64.00	\$90.37	\$0.00	Minimum monthly charge of \$80.48. All residential pays same flat rate.
OTHER										
Flat Rate										
1 Eagle River Water and Sanitation District	Secondary	Beaver Creek - CO	n.a.		2.0					
	,	Vail - CO	n.a.	Monthly	per EDU	\$34.47		\$34.47		
12 Upper Blue Sanitation District	Tertiary	Breckenridge - CO		Monthly	per EDU	\$34.47		\$34.47		
13 Town of Alta	,		n.a.	Quarterly	per EDU	\$26.00		\$26.00		Out of District \$39.00 per EDU.
	no neutilient	Alta - 01	n.a.	Annually	per EDU	\$31.25		\$31.25		Wastewater is transported through the Cottonwood Improvement District and treated at the
Flow Rate										Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility. These costs are in the Town's rate.
14 IVGID	Secondary	Diamond Peak - NV								racinty. These costs are in the Town's rate.
L5 Snyderville Basin Water Reclamation District	Tertiary		Commercial	Monthly	meter size/flow	\$1,545.84	\$2.90	\$46.38	\$2.90	Assumes 6" meter for commercial, 3/4" for residential.
	reruary	Park City - UT	n.a.	Monthly	per EDU/flow	\$27.46	\$2.61	\$27.46	\$2.61	Flow shares been an experienced, 3/4" for residential.
16 Mount Werner Water and Sanitation District	No Tour	Deer Valley - UT	n.a.	Monthly	per EDU/flow	\$27.46	\$2.61	\$27.46	\$2.61	Flow charge based on average winter water use (November to April).
- Water and Samueron District	No Treatment	Steamboat Springs - CO	Commercial	Quarterly	flow	\$0.00	\$5.55	\$42.57	\$0.00	Flow charge based on average winter water use (November to April).
						4-100	45.55	242.37	\$0.00	Flow charge multiplied by <u>actual</u> water use for calendar 1st and 4th quarters and multiplied by
										average 1st and 4th quarter water use for the 2nd and 3rd quarters. The wastewater is treated
17 Taura of to do										by the City of Steamboat Springs and the wastewater treatment costs are included in the
7 Town of Jackson	Tertiary	Snow King - WY	Based on unit type [2]	Monthly	meter size/flow	\$153.23	£2 57	40.00		District's rate.
					meter size/flow	\$155.23	\$1.67	\$7.05	\$1.67	Assumes 6" meter for commercial, 3/4" for residential. BOD and TSS incorporated in rates.
										Single family residential customers flow is the average for January, February, and March, All
										other residential and non-residential flow charges based on actual use.

ski rates

^[1] TTSA fees not included for Squaw Valley, Alpine Meadows, Homewood, and Tahoe Donner Downhill.
[2] Examples of billing for different unit types: restaurants billed by number of seats, car wash by number of bays, laundries by number of machines, and other businesses by number of plumbing fixtures.