



5972 County Road 234
Durango, CO 81301
Phone: 970-259-3102

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: SEWER RATE HEARING APRIL 15th, 2021 at 4:00 PM
EDGEMONT RANCH METROPOLITAN DISTRICT VIA ZOOM

TO ALL QUALIFIED TAXPAYING ELECTORS OF EDGEMONT RANCH METROPOLITAN DISTRICT TO ALL OTHER PERSONS TO WHOM IT MAY BE OF CONCERN:

At the next Regular Metro Board Meeting on **Thursday, April 15th, 2021 at 4:00 PM**, the Board of Directors will hold a Public Hearing to discuss potential sewer rate increases relating to the financing of our new wastewater treatment plant. Due to our ongoing COVID Emergency status, the meeting will be held via a ZOOM conference call – link provided:

As discussed at several previous board meetings on this topic, new more strict effluent limits have been put in place by our regulator, the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE). The discharge from our current system into the Florida River, although originally in compliance with regulations, is not able to meet these new, more stringent standards. Over three years ago we hired engineers to work with our staff to design a new wastewater treatment plant to meet the requirements. After a three-year process, CDPHE finally approved our permit, plant design and location late last year.

However, during the three-year approval process, effluent standards were tightened further and CDPHE required our plant to incorporate redundant systems which were not anticipated as well as meeting tougher nitrogen and phosphorus levels. As a result of these requirements and the increase in construction costs over the past three years, the cost to complete the plant has increased significantly. ERMD went to competitive bidding in October 2020. The final bids ranged from \$7.6 million to \$9.6 million. Working with our engineering firm we selected Integrated Water Services, Inc., a Denver based wastewater construction firm, with whom we entered into a value-engineering process to seek cost savings that would still meet CDPHE requirements.

We have just completed that value engineering process and now have a final project cost of approximately \$7,500,000. This cost exceeds the current cash reserves in ERMD's Sewer Enterprise Fund and will require an increase in the District's Sewer Infrastructure Fee. Currently, it appears that a fee increase in a range of approximately \$5 to \$10 per month for all lot owners would be required to meeting the financing requirements of the new plant.

The Public Hearing will be held to discuss the details of the project and consider any public comment. In the coming days we will post additional information on the ERMD website. We realize a ZOOM meeting is not the ideal format for this hearing, but due to the continuing COVID-19 state of emergency it is the safest way forward.

ERMD Board of Directors

Robert Ludwig is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Edgemont Ranch Metro April Board Meeting and Public Sewer Rate Hearing
Time: Apr 15, 2021 04:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86295527751?pwd=dVpzWWYxR3hRWDRVT0lyODY0cFFUQT09>

Meeting ID: 862 9552 7751

Passcode: 791446

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+14086380968,,86295527751#,,,,*791446# US (San Jose)

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Passcode: 791446

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbEciwsuZ>