

Council Members, Staff and Sebastopol Community,

I have serious concerns regarding the [recent statements in the last council meeting](#) made by the contracted city engineer on the topic of utility rate increases for residents of the Fircrest mobile home park. The data presented in the Sebastopol Times clearly demonstrates that these residents are facing a substantial increase in their utility rates, particularly when compared to single-family homeowners.

The statements made by the engineer at the previous council meeting were misleading and, frankly, irresponsible. The engineer asserted that residents of Fircrest benefit from being in a master metered community and would pay less than single-family homeowners. While technically correct on a dollar to dollar comparison, [the Sebastopol Times provided table](#) starkly contrasts this assertion.

To illustrate, the current bimonthly combined rate for a Fircrest dwelling unit is \$87.84, which is already a considerable amount. Looking ahead, by 2028, this rate will skyrocket to \$246.75. This represents an increase of over 180% in just five years. On the other hand, the rates for single-family residences, while also increasing, start at \$185.27 and will reach \$327.74 by 2028, an increase of approximately 77%.

What is particularly troubling is the differential impact on Fircrest residents due to the larger sized pipe they are connected to. The engineer's statements fail to acknowledge that the proportional rate increase for these residents is significantly higher. This disparity is not merely a matter of oversight but a fundamental misunderstanding—or misrepresentation—of the impact of these rate changes.

It is imperative that our communications with the public, especially regarding something as vital as utility rates, are transparent, accurate, and considerate of the actual burdens placed on our residents. The current narrative, suggesting that Fircrest residents are somehow better off, is not only incorrect but also dismissive of their legitimate concerns.

I urge the council to re-evaluate the rate structure and ensure that our community's most vulnerable members are not disproportionately affected. It is our duty to protect all residents from undue financial strain, and that starts with honest and clear communication.

Thank you,

Kyle Falbo

