

Magee Ranch Residents,

At the last Board meeting, the Board discussed recent communication flyers from EBMUD that detail pending rate increases. The flyers indicate increases in the elevation surcharge will be applied to water bills for residents in the Magee Ranch area. The Board was frustrated by this proposed increase in water rates and noted that homeowners may protest the increase by writing to EBMUD.

The Board has drafted the below letter that residents may use to protest the increase.

Protests must be received by postal mail no later than June 2.

Protests may be mailed to

EBMUD
ATTN: Director of Finance, MS218
P.O. Box 24055
Oakland, CA 94623

or delivered in person to:

EBMUD
Director of Finance MS218
375 11th Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4240

Draft letter for your use. Please feel free to edit if desired:

Chair
East Bay Municipal Utility District
P.O. Box 24055
Oakland, CA 94623

Dear Sir/Madam:

I write in opposition to the continuation of the EBMUD policy of charging an "Elevation Surcharge" on the water bills of those of us who live in the Magee Ranch subdivision of Danville.

That Elevation Surcharge adds roughly 20% to our bills. For example, in the period from January 11 -March 13, 2025, the charge was \$84 on a bill of \$409. In your proposal for yet another substantial increase, that elevation surcharge would increase to \$105.08 for 37 units of usage. This amounts to an increase of over 25% by 2027!

In addition to the ill-advised Elevation Surcharge, the rate for 37 units will increase from the \$254.59 on this bill to \$300.75, an increase of \$46.16, or over 18%.

For those of us who pay the Elevation Surcharge that means that our water usage for 37 units (excluding the meter charge) will increase from \$338.38 to over \$405, not including the water meter charge, which is impossible to compute from the information provided. This is an increase of over \$66 for usage even before the heat and dryness of summer.

Because we are "taxed" an elevation charge, even though we are less than 850 feet above sea level, we will pay that \$66 increase while those who are below some magic elevation would incur about a \$46 increase. Eight hundred feet is not a high elevation; as a comparison, Mt. Diablo is about 4,000 feet high. When summer and high temperatures arrive, the penalty for living at 850 feet or so will be well above hundreds of dollars per billing period.

What are the rules for what is considered a high elevation? Homes facing this charge incur a significant penalty. What is the actual cost of pumping and what qualifies as an elevation? We are double charged merely because the topography of the EBMUD district is not a flat plane. Various governmental entities authorized that homes could be built at our location, likely not knowing that EBMUD would penalize homeowners with what amounts to double increase.

(Signed homeowner)