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TO: All part-time/seasonal service connections:

When Eureka City took on the latest water and sewer project, we had to raise our base rates for water and sewer in order to qualify for the funding to complete the project. This was calculated on the number of connections we had. The rates were set at \$56.00 for water (Debt Service) and \$45.00 for sewer.

Shortly after, the Council had some discussions concerning the connections to homes or property where the residents were not here full-time or were not currently using the services but wanted to maintain the connection. The Council was trying not to create a hardship on those that were not here full-time, so they established the Maintenance Fee which gave those residents a few options to pay quarterly, semi-annually or annually. These rates did not include any water use and was not meant to be used as a permanent rate solution. If a resident happened to use water while on this rate, it was at \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons.

When we first started charging for the Maintenance Fee, there were not many on this rate schedule, but it has grown significantly. Due to the increase in the number of residents using this rate, we are finding it more difficult to meet the demands for the annual payments on our water and sewer loans. This fee was originally set up for those connections that was not being used, except for in an emergency or a weekend or two.

After some research, it was determined that we must amend our rates for the seasonal or part-time customers. The Council felt that the fee could no longer be a Maintenance Fee, but a Service Fee. The rates that were proposed by the Council to take the place of the Maintenance Fee were \$38.00 for water and \$26.00 for sewer <u>per month</u>. These rates are the minimum that can be charged and does not include water use. If there is any water use, the account would revert to the regular rates. The proposal was then sent to the residents by way of a Public Hearing to get their input.

On January 13, 2020, the Eureka City Council held a Public Hearing to take public comment on updating the Town's Fee Schedule, which included these new rates and no comments were received. During the regular Council Meeting following the Public Hearing, the Eureka City Council voted unanimously to update the Fee Schedule.

These new rates will take effect immediately following the expiration of your current Maintenance Fee Schedule.

If you should have any questions, you may contact the City Office at the number listed above, or by email.

Thank You,

talet Nick Castleton,

Mayor