



MAY INFORMATION SHEET

Presented by the Rosamond Community Services District for their valued customers. If you would like more information, or have suggestions for future information sheets, please let us know by calling 661-256-3411.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR OUR CUSTOMERS

Street light update

Think back to 1969. How much has changed since then? In 1969 the average cost of gas was \$0.35 a gallon and you could expect to pay around \$3,300 for a mid range car. 1969 was also the year that RCSD established Rosamond's lighting fee at \$1.00, to pay for the community's street lights.

Since 1969 prices have gone up, including the price of electricity. Not only that, but inflation has made our money worth less. In fact, just to keep up with inflation, RCSD would have to raise the original lighting fee by almost 640%.*

However, the lighting fee on RCSD water bills cannot legally be changed, despite inflation, increases in costs and an increase in Rosamond's population.

As time went on, the \$1.00 fee just didn't go as far as it used to. A few years ago, the cost of lighting began to exceed the amount of money brought in by the lighting fee.

This left our community with two options:

1. Increase lighting fees to cover the ever increasing cost associates with street lighting.

2. Stop paying for neighborhood street lighting and let our neighborhoods go dark.

Law prohibits RCSD from increasing the lighting fee that is on the water bill. This means that RCSD either needed to end lighting service, stopping the hemorrhage of cash and leaving the whole community dark, or annex new zones into the existing landscape and lighting assessment district to bring in new money to pay for lighting costs.

The RCSD team came up with a plan that would fairly provide lighting for the community as a whole, while allowing individual neighborhoods to decide to keep their lights on by paying
(continued)

Important phone numbers

RCSD

661-256-3411

RCSD on-call

661-816-5245

Sheriff non-emergency

661-861-3110

Animal control

661-824-4464

Roads department

661-824-4074

Illegal dumping

888-838-6746

Graffiti

800-675-4357

Illegal off-road

661-272-2400

Poison control

800-876-4766

Rosamond Community Services District
3179 35th Street West, Rosamond CA 93560
Monday - Thursday, 8 am to 4:30 pm
(661) 256-3411 - rosamondcsd.com

Upcoming RCSD Meetings
May 13 - 7:00pm
May 27 - 7:00pm
at the RCSD Offices

ROSAMOND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT – APRIL INFORMATION SHEET

for them, or to not pay and allow Southern California Edison end street light service in their neighborhood.

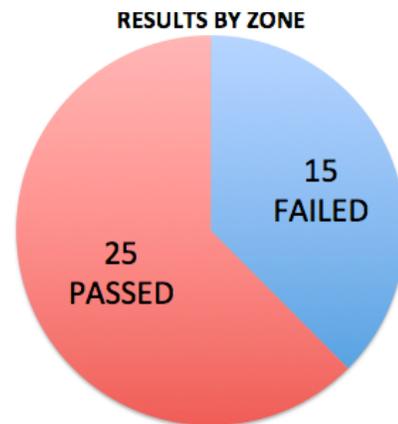
Following the law set by California Proposition 218, RCSD annexed 40 new zones into the existing landscape and lighting assessment midway through 2014. Residents in these zones were asked to vote on accepting the new lighting fees to keep the lights on, or reject them and enjoy dark rural nights. The original \$1 lighting fee would be maintained to pay for street lighting on Rosamond's main community roads because no other funding source for these lights exist at this time.

This plan is fair in that it allows the entire community to pay for lighting the main community roads that everyone uses, while letting individual neighborhoods decide if they want to pay to light their own streets.

This plan and the community vote were both heavily discussed in seven different board and public meetings and were covered extensively in the local news papers. Despite this publicity, very few people came out to cast ballots. In the end, only 1,196 property owners cast their votes. Out of the 40 new zones created and annexed, 25 voted to keep the lights on and 15 zones voted to not pay for the lights.

After the vote RCSD began the process with Southern California Edison to stop paying for street lighting in the 15 zones that voted to go dark and the owners of the poles and lights, Southern California Edison, were in charge of what would happen next. They have only recently begun turning lights off as a result of the legal ballot in 2014. With lights turning off, some members of our community are now becoming concerned.

Not a clear cut issue



Of the 40 lighting zones created, 25 passed the new lighting fees and kept the lights on.

As you can see, this is a divisive issue in our community. However, it is an issue that was put to a ballot to have the people's voice heard.

How would you handle this situation? Would you like to share your opinion or experience on this matter? Please write a letter to us or attend one of our regularly scheduled board meetings. (Our mailing address and upcoming meetings are at the bottom of this sheet)

You can also send in your comments on our website by going to RosamondCSD.com, and selecting 'Contact RCSD' in the 'I Want To' menu on the right hand side. We look forward to hearing from you and finding a fair solution for our entire community.

**http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm*

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