



Control Number: 42912



Item Number: 4

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42912

Petition to Appeal Rates Established by the Board of Directors

LA SALLE WCID 1-A

PO BOX 375, Port O'Connor, TX 77982, 361.983.2652 and or 2206 State Hwy. 35 N Port Lavaca, TX 77979

The undersigned ratepayers of LA SALLE WCID 1-A hereby appeal the decision of the board of directors of the Corporation affecting the rates charged to them by LA SALLE WCID 1-A. The rate change was effective on January 1, 2014, and affected the rates for Water Base Rates, Sewer Base Rates, Basic, WTR REG, SWR REG. On January 1, 2014 the ratepayers notified by the service provider of this rate increase. The undersigned request that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality review the decision to determine if the rates established are just and reasonable. The old rates charged by the service provider are Water \$31.35, Sewer \$31.35, Basic \$23.50 WTR REG \$0.16, SWR REG \$0.16 minimum usage, and as disclosed in Exhibit No.1, and the new rates are Water \$55.00, Sewer \$55.00, Basic \$23.50, WTR REG \$0.33, SWR REG \$0.28, no minimum usage, and as disclosed in Exhibit No.2. The undersigned designate the Port O'Connor Watchdog Group, LLC as their representative on this matter. Correspondence to the ratepayers' representative may be directed to Leon S. Brown, Jr., Managing-Partner, Port O'Connor Watchdog Group, LLC, PO Box 623, Port O'Connor, Texas 77982, 361.983.2060.

We, ratepayers of the LA SALLE WCID 1-A have lost confidence in the Board of Directors to establish just and reasonable rates for our community and petition to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to hear our appeal.

Name (Please Print)
and Signature

Service Address (And Mailing Address
if Different from Service Address)

Phone Number

Swanson & Tucker Jr.

50 Lago Loop 77982

361-990-2848

Leon S. Brown Jr.

PO BOX 912 Port Lavaca, TX 77979

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Petition to Appeal Rates Established By the Board of Directors

LA SALLE WCID 1-A

PO BOX 375, Port O'Connor, Texas 77982, 361.983.2652 and or 2206 State Hwy. 35N Port Lavaca, TX 77979

Name (Please Print)
and Signature

Service Address(And Mailing Address
if Different From Service Address)

Phone Number

Robert Leroy Baston III Lot 168 phase 2 77982 361-935-4244
Robert P. Baston III 70 Box 68 Port Lavaca TX 77979

George A. Gahen Jr. 281 Arbol Vista East 77982 361-482-9496
George A. Gahen Jr. 306 Semaraland Victoria, TX 77904

Robert Gilliland 91 W Lago Loop Port Lavaca 77982 361-379-7030
Robert Gilliland 1448 Whitehorse Lane, Spring TX 77379

John Barker 200 Burns Vista, 77982 713-203-5956
John Barker 79 Washburn Pool Spring TX 77379

Petition to Appeal Rates Established By the Board of Directors

LA SALLE WCID 1-A

PO BOX 375, Port O'Connor, Texas 77982, 361.983.2652 and or 2206 State Hwy. 35N Port Lavaca, TX 77979

Name (Please Print)
and Signature

Service Address(And Mailing Address
if Different From Service Address)

Phone Number

Jan M. May

153 Chavez Way Port Lavaca, TX 77982

Jan M. May

315 Trinity Farm, Sugarwood TX 77358

281-744-6083

The Sanctuary at Costa Grande, Port O'Connor

The Sanctuary at Costa Grande is the newest planned, gated Intracoastal community on the Texas Gulf Coast! Located on the unspoiled eastern coast of Texas, approximately 125 miles from Houston and approximately 160 miles from San Antonio and Austin, nestled in nature, is a wildlife sanctuary with a lush array of diverse plants and animals - on land and in water.

WATER IS SUPPLIED BY, THE PORT O'CONNOR IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT AS DISCLOSED IN THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS.

There are 54 ratepayers in the subdivision. The 10 percent requirement for the petition would be 6 signatures to have Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to hear the residents appeal. We submit 6 signatures.

2004 MAR 28 PM 9 23
WATER SUPPLY DIST.

As reported by the Port Lavaca Wave Newspaper December 10, 2009

PORT O'CONNOR - While a number of resort community lot owners face foreclosure, the Sanctuary at Costa Grande developer says he swims still with his head above deep financial water.

"I've heard at different times that the Sanctuary is broke. Absolutely not true," said Darryl Hammond, general manager of D.H. Texas Development and the project's principal developer. "We now have 600 owners who pay \$2,000 a year to keep the grounds up. We're not going anywhere."

The Sanctuary at Costa Grande, located just outside Port O'Connor, is a high-end residential development. Work began in March 2007. Hammond and investors poured \$60 million into leveling the ground, installing streets and building the infrastructure, as well as the bulkhead for the 150-acre marina, boat slips, pools and clubhouse.

When the economy dove, foreclosures rose. This year, foreclosure threatens about 50 home site owners, Hammond said.

"As a percentage of the development, that's not very much," he said.

David Roberts, the Sanctuary's Port Lavaca lawyer, confirmed Hammond's account. He said many buyers were outside investors who had visions of beach-front appreciation.

The development boasts 767 single lots and space for 35 multi-family lots. So far, Hammond's group of salespeople sold 600 lots at prices ranging from \$69,000 to \$500,000, he said.

"We still have to sell about 200, but the homeowners' association is in good financial shape and taking care of the grounds," Hammond said. "We haven't made a lot of money, but all the property the HOA owns is free and clear. The development is sound, as far as I'm concerned."

Nobody lives at the Sanctuary year-round. The development for now is largely a place for second homes and investments. So far, three lot owners built homes and Hammond said he expects more this spring.

He also expects to break ground on Phase III of the plans: developing about 300 lower-priced units next summer. This phase was part of the plan all along, he said.

"With the rest of the economy moving in the right direction, we feel our place will, too," he said. "We just don't know if it will be six months, a year or longer."

Had the country and region not been hit by recession, Phase III would be complete, Hammond predicted. So long as the real estate and stock market fluctuate, buyers

remain cautious. Breaking ground on Phase III plans this summer will hinge on an upswing in markets and confidence.

He declined to discuss phases planned beyond the third, as well as possible timelines for future phases. "Until we see what this market does, it's hard to say what we'll do," Hammond said.

For now, about 6 percent of the high-end lots face foreclosure. This remains a positive sign for the resort community's future, suggested Lee Swearingen, a Victoria broker.

"If that's all there is, that's pretty good," Swearingen said.

Today

Seven years later, Sanctuary at Costa Grande has **54 ratepayers.**

Section 3.12 –Basic Service Fee.

With the exception of Commercial accounts as defined in Section 2.1 of these Rules and Regulations, all District accounts will be assessed a monthly Basic Service Fee in the amount of \$23.50 per month. This fee will apply if the customer is a water only or sewer only customer or receives both services from the District (added January 17, 2013; amended March 21, 2013)

Section 3.13 – Water Service Rates. (renumbered remainder of Section 3 as a result of January 17, 2013 amendments)

The following rates and charges for the sale of water are in effect for District Utilities constituting water service to areas within the District:

MONTHLY WATER SERVICE RATES

(Effective October 15, 2012, adopted September 20, 2012 and changes made September 20, 2012)

<i>Meter Type</i>	<i>Applicable Minimum (in gallons/monthly billing period)</i>	<i>Monthly charge for any usage up to Applicable Minimum</i>	<i>Monthly charge per 1,000 gallons of usage in excess of Applicable Minimum</i>
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RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND CERTAIN OTHER METERS

(all meters up to ¾")	2,000	\$31.35	\$5.28 up to 6,000 gallons
			\$5.78 from 6,001 – 10,000 gallons
			\$6.05 from 10,001 – 15,000 gallons
			\$6.66 from 15,001 – 35,000 gallons
			\$7.15 from 35,001 – 50,000 gallons
			\$7.43 from 50,001 gallons +

IRRIGATION METER

¾" meter	2,000	\$56.10	\$5.28 up to 6,000 gallons
			\$5.78 from 6,001 – 10,000 gallons
			\$6.05 from 10,001 – 15,000 gallons

La Salle Water Control and Improvement District No. 1A

			\$6.66 from 15,001 – 35,000 gallons
			\$7.15 from 35,001 – 50,000 gallons
			\$7.43 from 50,001 gallons +

ALL OTHER METERS

(1")	2,000	\$76.73	\$5.28 from 2,001 to 6,000 gallons; \$5.78 from 6,001-10,000 gallons; \$6.05 from 10,001-15,000 gallons and \$6.66 from 15,001-35,000 gallons \$7.15 from 35,001 – 50,000 gallons and \$7.43 from 50,001 gallons +
(1.5")	2,000	\$111.10	\$5.28 from 2,001 to 6,000 gallons; \$5.78 from 6,001-10,000 gallons; \$6.05 from 10,001-15,000 gallons and \$6.66 from 15,001-35,000 gallons \$7.15 from 35,001 – 50,000 gallons and \$7.43 from 50,001 gallons +
(2")	2,000	\$182.60	\$5.28 from 2,001 to 6,000 gallons; \$5.78 from 6,001-10,000 gallons; \$6.05 from 10,001-15,000 gallons and \$6.66 from 15,001-35,000 gallons \$7.15 from 35,001 – 50,000 gallons and \$7.43 from 50,001 gallons +
(3")	60,000	\$404.80	\$6.66

(4")	100,000	\$675.40	\$6.66
(6")	175,000	\$1,179.20	\$6.66

BULK WATER: The rate for water usage for bulk water purchased from the District will be seven dollars and eighty-seven cents (\$7.87) per one thousand (1,000) gallon(s) of usage. The District Operator will insure that this transfer will be through an anti-contamination device. Delivery will be at a location, time and manner determined by the District Operator.

Section 3.14 – Wastewater Service Rates.

(a) The following rates and charges for District Utilities constituting wastewater collection and treatment services are in effect for service to areas within the District:

MONTHLY WASTEWATER SERVICE RATES

(Effective October 15, 2011, adopted September 15, 2011 and changes made September 15, 2011)

RESIDENTIAL METERS

	<i>Wastewater Service Charge for up to 2,000 gallons of Applicable Average Water Usage</i>	<i>Wastewater Service Charge per 1,000 gallons of Applicable Average Water Usage in excess of 2,000 gallons</i>
(meters up to ¾")	\$31.35	\$4.40

OTHER METERS & COMMERCIAL METERS

(Effective October 15, 2011, adopted September 15, 2011 and changes made September 15, 2011)

<i>Water Meter Size</i>	<i>Wastewater Service Charge for any water usage up to 2,000 gallons per monthly billing period:</i>	<i>Wastewater Service Charge per 1,000 gallons of actual water usage in excess of 2,000 gallons per monthly billing period:</i>
(meters up to ¾")	\$31.35	\$4.40
(1")	\$76.73	\$4.40
(1.5")	\$111.10	\$4.40
(2")	\$182.60	\$4.40

(3")	\$362.18	\$4.40
(4")	\$624.53	\$4.40
(6")	\$1,003.20	\$4.40

Section 3.15 – Out-of-District Rates.

(Effective October 15, 2012, adopted September 20, 2012 and changes made September 20, 2012)

The following monthly rates and charges for the sale of water and sewer service shall be in effect for service to areas outside the District from and after the District's adoption of this Regulation:

RESIDENTIAL METERS (up to ¾")

Water	(2,000 gallon minimum) \$46.48	(per thousand after 2,000 gallons) \$6.33
Sewer	(2,000 gallon minimum) \$46.48	(per thousand after 2,000 gallons) \$6.33

COMMERCIAL METERS

(meters up to ¾")	(2,000 gallon minimum) \$46.48	(per thousand after 2,000 gallons) \$6.33
(1")	(2,000 gallon minimum) \$114.54	(per thousand after 2,000 gallons) \$7.43
(2")	(2,000 gallon minimum) \$273.35	(per thousand after 2,000 gallons) \$7.43
(3")	(60,000 gallon minimum) \$505.87	(per thousand after 60,000 gallons) \$7.43
(4")	(100,000 gallon minimum) \$874.09	(per thousand after 100,000 gallons) \$7.43
(6")	(175,000 gallon minimum) \$1,396.45	(per thousand after 175,000 gallons) \$7.43

The above rates are adjusted to comply with the interlocal agreement with the Port O'Connor Municipal Utility District.

Section 3.16 – Tap Fees for Water and Wastewater Service.

(Effective November 5, 2013, adopted September 19, 2013 and changes made to Wastewater Tap Fees on September 19, 2013) (Effective November 5, 2013, adopted October 17, 2013 and changes made to Water Tap Fees on October 17, 2013)

(a) Connection where Service is Available. Tap Fees and Connection Fees for applicants for Service Connections at properties where Service is Available are established as follows:

<i>Fee or Charge</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Water Tap Fee	Includes tap of main, setting meter, meter and connection to meter at property line for any $\frac{3}{4}$ " water meter	\$615.00
	Includes tap of main, setting meter, meter and connection to meter at property line for any meter larger than $\frac{3}{4}$ "	Connection costs, plus 19.25%
Additional Tap Fee	Includes tap of main, setting meter, meter and connection to meter at property line for any meter larger than $\frac{3}{4}$ " water meter	\$1,500.00
	Includes tap of main, setting meter, meter and connection to meter at property line for any meter larger than $\frac{3}{4}$ "	Connection costs plus 19.25%
Water Connection Fee	Includes initializing service to existing meter	\$110.00
Wastewater Tap Fee	For any Standard Wastewater Service Connection (whether Residential or Other)	\$2,200.00
Wastewater Connection Fee	Includes inspection necessary to initialize service to an existing pot	\$.00
Permit Fee	Permitting and inspection	\$.00
Customer Deposits	Refundable upon termination of services or sale of property if no debts owed to the District	\$100—Water
		\$100—Wastewater
Capital Recovery Fee	Charges imposed by the La Salle WCID 1A to defray expansion costs to the Water and Wastewater Systems to accommodate and promote growth and development within the La Salle WCID 1A	As applicable

(b) Non-Standard Connection. Subject to the special provisions for buffer tanks set forth herein, the applicant shall pay to the District the Connection Costs for a Non-Standard Wastewater Service Connection, plus 19.25% of such Connection Costs. In addition to that amount, the applicant shall pay the tap fee described in Section 3.15(a) above, and, if a buffer tank is required by the District as a means of making the Non-Standard Wastewater Service Connection, the applicant shall also pay the District's actual cost (including freight) for each buffer tank, plus 19.25% of those actual costs and the installation costs thereof. The tap fee shall not be treated as Connection Costs for purposes of applying the 19.25% markup.

(c) Where Service is Unavailable. Applicants for Residential Service Connections or Other Service Connections at properties where Service is unavailable shall pay all of the costs of extending and/or expanding the capacity of such mains and facilities and all costs of tapping and connection as provided by the applicable provisions contained within these Regulations, governing extensions of service. If buffer tanks are required as a part of the extension and/or connection, the District shall supply the tanks, install the same, and make the charges as set forth in Section 3.15(b).

(d) Water-Only Service Connections. An applicant for a Residential Service Connection for a meter not larger than 3/4" may apply for connection of water only, if the property for which service is sought does not require an extension or expansion of the capacity of mains or facilities to provide water service, but does require such extension or expansion to provide wastewater service. In that event, the applicant will pay the applicable Water Tap Fee and the Customer Deposit. (amended April 18, 2013)

Section 3.17 – Reconnection; Account Reopening; Charges.

Charges for Reconnection/Account Reopening. The following schedule of fees shall apply to the reconnection of disconnected service to a customer and to the restoration of service for that same customer following an account closure:

<i>Fee or Charge</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Reconnect Fee-Water	After service disconnected due to non-payment or violation of Rules and Regulations of District	\$110
	Reconnection after customer requested disconnect	\$550
Reconnect Fee-Sewer	If sewer service disconnected due to non-payment or violation of Rules and Regulations or per customer request	The District's cost to disconnect and reconnect to the system, plus 19.25%

* The District shall not in any event be required to restore service or perform any reconnection after 8 p.m. and before the following District Business Day.

installations or upgrades and is subject to any fines the District is authorized to impose and for the difference in payment between what was remitted to the District and what would have been owed to the District if such difference can be established. (Changes made February 18, 2010).

Section 3.12 – Basic Service Fee.

With the exception of Commercial accounts as defined in Section 2.1 of these Rules and Regulations, all District accounts will be assessed a monthly Basic Service Fee in the amount of \$23.50 per month. This fee will apply if the customer is a water only or sewer only customer or receives both services from the District (added January 17, 2013; amended March 21, 2013)

Section 3.13 – Water Service Rates.

(renumbered remainder of Section 3 as a result of January 17, 2013 amendments; increased water service rates on December 19, 2013, but effective January 30, 2014)

The following rates and charges for the sale of water are in effect for District Utilities constituting water service to areas within the District:

MONTHLY WATER SERVICE RATES

(Effective January 30, 2014, adopted December 19, 2013)

<i>Meter Type</i>	<i>Monthly charge</i>	<i>Monthly charge per 1,000 gallons of usage</i>
(all meters up to ¾")	\$55.00	\$5.28 up to 6,000 gallons
		\$5.78 from 6,001 – 10,000 gallons
		\$6.05 from 10,001 – 15,000 gallons
		\$6.66 from 15,001 – 35,000 gallons
		\$7.15 from 35,001 – 50,000 gallons
		\$7.43 from 50,001 gallons +

IRRIGATION METER

¾" meter	\$79.75	\$5.28 up to 6,000 gallons
		\$5.78 from 6,001 – 10,000 gallons
		\$6.05 from 10,001 –

		15,000 gallons
		\$6.66 from 15,001 – 35,000 gallons
		\$7.15 from 35,001 – 50,000 gallons
		\$7.43 from 50,001 gallons +

ALL OTHER METERS

(1")	\$100.38	\$5.28 up to 6,000 gallons; \$5.78 from 6,001-10,000 gallons; \$6.05 from 10,001-15,000 gallons; \$6.66 from 15,001- 35,000 gallons; \$7.15 from 35,001 – 50,000 gallons; and \$7.43 from 50,001 gallons +
(1.5")	\$134.75	\$5.28 up to 6,000 gallons; \$5.78 from 6,001-10,000 gallons; \$6.05 from 10,001-15,000 gallons; \$6.66 from 15,001- 35,000 gallons; \$7.15 from 35,001 – 50,000 gallons; and \$7.43 from 50,001 gallons +
(2")	\$206.25	\$5.28 up to 6,000 gallons; \$5.78 from 6,001-10,000 gallons; \$6.05 from 10,001-15,000 gallons; \$6.66 from 15,001- 35,000 gallons; \$7.15 from 35,001 – 50,000 gallons; and \$7.43 from 50,001 gallons +

(3")	\$428.45	\$5.28 up to 6,000 gallons; \$5.78 from 6,001-10,000 gallons; \$6.05 from 10,001-15,000 gallons; \$6.66 from 15,001- 35,000 gallons; \$7.15 from 35,001 – 50,000 gallons; and \$7.43 from 50,001 gallons +
(4")	\$699.05	\$5.28 up to 6,000 gallons; \$5.78 from 6,001-10,000 gallons; \$6.05 from 10,001-15,000 gallons; \$6.66 from 15,001- 35,000 gallons; \$7.15 from 35,001 – 50,000 gallons; and \$7.43 from 50,001 gallons +
(6")	\$1,202.85	\$5.28 up to 6,000 gallons; \$5.78 from 6,001-10,000 gallons; \$6.05 from 10,001-15,000 gallons; \$6.66 from 15,001- 35,000 gallons; \$7.15 from 35,001 – 50,000 gallons; and \$7.43 from 50,001 gallons +

BULK WATER: The rate for water usage for bulk water purchased from the District will be seven dollars and eighty-seven cents (\$7.87) per one thousand (1,000) gallon(s) of usage. The District Operator will insure that this transfer will be through an anti-contamination device. Delivery will be at a location, time and manner determined by the District Operator.

Section 3.14 – Wastewater Service Rates.

(a) The following rates and charges for District Utilities constituting wastewater collection and treatment services are in effect for service to areas within the District:

MONTHLY WASTEWATER SERVICE RATES

(Effective October 15, 2011, adopted September 15, 2011 and changes made September 15, 2011; increased wastewater service rates on December 19, 2013, but effective January 30, 2014; Revised this Section to reflect no minimum usage effective on February 20, 2014, but effective March 10, 2014)

RESIDENTIAL METERS

<i>Meter Type</i>	<i>Monthly Charge</i>	<i>Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallons of Usage</i>
(meters up to ¾")	\$55.00	\$4.40

OTHER METERS & COMMERCIAL METERS

(Effective October 15, 2011, adopted September 15, 2011 and changes made September 15, 2011)

<i>Meter Size</i>	<i>Monthly Charge</i>	<i>Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallons of Usage</i>
(meters up to ¾")	\$55.00	\$4.40
(1")	\$100.38	\$4.40
(1.5")	\$134.75	\$4.40
(2")	\$206.25	\$4.40
(3")	\$388.83	\$4.40
(4")	\$648.18	\$4.40
(6")	\$1,026.85	\$4.40

Section 3.15 – Out-of-District Rates.

(Effective October 15, 2012, adopted September 20, 2012 and changes made September 20, 2012; increased wastewater service rates on December 19, 2013, but effective January 30, 2014)

The following monthly rates and charges for the sale of water and sewer service shall be in effect for service to areas outside the District from and after the District's adoption of this Regulation:

RESIDENTIAL METERS (up to 3/4")

	(Monthly Charge)	(Monthly Charge per 1,000 gallons)
Water	\$70.13	\$6.33
	(Monthly Charge)	(Monthly Charge per 1,000 gallons)
Sewer	\$70.13	\$6.33

COMMERCIAL METERS

	(Monthly Charge)	(Monthly Charge per 1,000 gallons)
(meters up to 3/4")	\$70.13	\$6.33
	(Monthly Charge)	(Monthly Charge per 1,000 gallons)
(1")	\$138.19	\$7.43
	(Monthly Charge)	(Monthly Charge per 1,000 gallons)
(2")	\$297.00	\$7.43
	(Monthly Charge)	(Monthly Charge per 1,000 gallons)
(3")	\$529.52	\$7.43
	(Monthly Charge)	(Monthly Charge per 1,000 gallons)
(4")	\$897.74	\$7.43
	(Monthly Charge)	(Monthly Charge per 1,000 gallons)
(6")	\$1,420.10	\$7.43

The above rates are adjusted to comply with the interlocal agreement with the Port O'Connor Improvement District.

Section 3.16 – Tap Fees for Water and Wastewater Service.

(Effective November 5, 2013, adopted September 19, 2013 and changes made to Wastewater Tap Fees on September 19, 2013) (Effective November 5, 2013, adopted October 17, 2013 and changes made to Water Tap Fees on October 17, 2013)

(a) Connection where Service is Available. Tap Fees and Connection Fees for applicants for Service Connections at properties where Service is Available are established as follows:

(c) Where Service is Unavailable. Applicants for Residential Service Connections or Other Service Connections at properties where Service is unavailable shall pay all of the costs of extending and/or expanding the capacity of such mains and facilities and all costs of tapping and connection as provided by the applicable provisions contained within these Regulations, governing extensions of service. If buffer tanks are required as a part of the extension and/or connection, the District shall supply the tanks, install the same, and make the charges as set forth in Section 3.15(b).

(d) Water-Only Service Connections. An applicant for a Residential Service Connection for a meter not larger than ¾" may apply for connection of water only, if the property for which service is sought does not require an extension or expansion of the capacity of mains or facilities to provide water service, but does require such extension or expansion to provide wastewater service. In that event, the applicant will pay the applicable Water Tap Fee and the Customer Deposit. (amended April 18, 2013)

Section 3.17 – Reconnection; Account Reopening; Charges.

Charges for Reconnection/Account Reopening. The following schedule of fees shall apply to the reconnection of disconnected service to a customer and to the restoration of service for that same customer following an account closure:

<i>Fee or Charge</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Reconnect Fee-Water	After service disconnected due to non-payment or violation of Rules and Regulations of District	\$110
	Reconnection after customer requested disconnect	\$550
Reconnect Fee-Sewer	If sewer service disconnected due to non-payment or violation of Rules and Regulations or per customer request	The District's cost to disconnect and reconnect to the system, plus 19.25%

* The District shall not in any event be required to restore service or perform any reconnection after 8 p.m. and before the following District Business Day.
To the extent allowed by law, payment of the fee or fees authorized by this Section shall be a condition to the restoration of service at the previously served location.

Section 3.18 – Adjusted Bills Due to Meter Tampering

If meter tampering occurs, a customer's bill may be determined based on any of the following methodologies:

CHARGING FOR WATER WHEN THERE IS LEAD CONCERNS.

READ THE PUBLIC NOTICE ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR THE LEAD NOTICE.

PUBLIC NOTICE

LA SALLE WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1A

P.O. BOX 9 PORT LAVACA, TEXAS 77979

Tel: (361) 552-2971 Fax: (361) 552-5368

SOME HOMES AND BUILDINGS IN THE SANCTUARY SUBDIVISION HAVE ELEVATED LEAD LEVELS IN THEIR DRINKING WATER. LEAD CAN POSE A SIGNIFICANT RISK TO YOUR HEALTH. PLEASE READ THE ENCLOSED NOTICE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and La Salle Water Control and Improvement District No. 1A are concerned about lead in your drinking water. Although most homes have very low levels in their drinking water, some homes in the community have lead levels above the EPA action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb), or 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water (mg/L). Under Federal law, we are required to have a program in place to minimize lead in your drinking water. We are hiring an engineering firm to complete a Corrosion Control Study that should be completed within twelve months. This program includes corrosion control treatment (treating the water to make it less likely that lead will dissolve into the water), source water treatment (removing any lead that is in the water at the time it leaves our treatment facility) and a public education program.

If you have any questions about how we are carrying out the requirements of the lead regulation, please give us a call at (361) 552-2971. This document explains the simple steps you can take to protect you and your family by reducing your exposure to lead in drinking water.

WHAT HAPPENED AND WHAT IS BEING DONE?

La Salle Water Control and Improvement District No. 1A believes that the test results that indicated a higher than allowed presence of lead and copper were as a result of improper sampling. The District contends this is the problem, due to the fact that some of the test sites used sat vacant with little water use for a majority of the time prior to sampling. It is possible that water was taken directly from the tap after it had been sitting in the pipe for a long period of time. As such, this would not be a proper sample. TCEQ guidelines state that sample sites should not include residences or buildings that have infrequently used taps, as testing at these sites could give a water system an exceedance for lead and/or copper. Some sites tested, such as the Club House, would test with an exceedance for lead and/or copper one time and the next time it would show acceptable levels. The District contends that the test results coincide with possible rentals and usage of the Club House. The District will investigate to see if there is a correlation between high lead and/or copper results and lack of use of the Club House prior to sampling. The District is taking this matter very seriously and we will follow all guidelines set forth by the TCEQ to ensure there is not a lead and copper problem in the Sanctuary Subdivision. The District is hiring an engineering firm that will conduct the Corrosion Study required by TCEQ. The District will also be increasing its monitoring over the next twelve months. We will continue to keep you informed, but do not hesitate to contact the District at (361) 552-2971 with any questions.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON LEAD

Important information about Lead in Your Drinking Water. La Salle Water Control and Improvement District No. 1A found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

SOURCES OF LEAD

Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of infants who drink baby formulas and concentrated juices that are mixed with water. The EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead. Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or the wearing away of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome plated brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect your house to the water main (service lines). In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes, and other plumbing materials to 8.0%.

When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon after returning from work or school, can contain fairly high levels of lead.

STEPS TO TAKE AT HOME TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

Despite our best efforts mentioned earlier to control water corrosivity and remove lead from the water supply, lead levels in some homes or buildings can be high. To find out whether you need to take action in your own home, have your drinking water tested to determine if it contains excessive concentrations of lead. Treating the water is essential because you cannot see, taste, or smell it.