

From: [Heather McDougal](#)
To: [Billington, Tracie;](#)
CC: [sfarahnak@waterboards.ca.gov;](mailto:sfarahnak@waterboards.ca.gov)
Subject: \$700,000 for small town water facilities
Date: Wednesday, February 07, 2007 11:14:35 AM
Attachments:

Ms. Tracie Billington
Department of Water Resources
tracieb@water.ca.gov

Dear Ms. Billington:

I know you may have received many copies of this letter, and hope that you are aware there is a typo in most copies: the cost of our facility is actually going to be \$700,000, not \$70,000. Therefore you can see why I urge you to consider our plight!

I sincerely hope you will award grant money to Santa Cruz County Public Works for the Davenport Sanitation District's grant proposal. Davenport is required by the State Department of Health to provide a water treatment plant, which will comply with new water quality standards during winter flows. Our small, rural community of 350 residents must purchase a \$700,000 new water treatment facility.

Our water fees, which are billed through homeowners' property taxes, have risen at an astronomical rate. In 2002, water rates were \$312 a year. This year, our rates rose 70% from \$715 in 2005 to \$1,200 in 2006 and are expected to rise another \$200 in 2007. We have numerous retired residents on fixed incomes as well as low-income families for whom these rates are a major hardship.

At the same time, due to the new standards, residents have been advised to boil our drinking and cooking water for safety during the winter months as the turbidity is so high that it prevents the system from filtering it properly.

In addition to the residents, there are several businesses and an

elementary school which are being asked to pay exorbitant rates for water that has been declared non-potable. Pacific Elementary School has 120 students and 30 employees who are drinking bottled water while the school pays \$3,225 for water service charges plus an additional \$1,200 for water fees via property taxes.

The situation is quite untenable. I strongly urge you to approve funding for Santa Cruz County Public Works proposal under the Proposition 50 Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant Program.

Thank you for your consideration,

Heather McDougal

Cc: Ms. Shala Farahnak, State Water Resources Control Board
sfarahnak@waterboards.ca.gov