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South Fork Coeur d'Alene River **SEWER DISTRICT**

December 1, 2022

Dear Valued Customer:

The Sewer District takes keeping rates **low** seriously. To avoid raising rates over the last 4 years, we have:

- Used grant funds so that ratepayers didn't need to pay for some capital improvements.
- Focused on preventative maintenance to keep our infrastructure in good shape and avoid costly repairs.
- Reduced inflow and infiltration which reduces chemical and electricity usage.
- Completed several capital improvements that reduce long-term operations costs such as replaced a pump station with gravity sewer pipe to eliminate future electricity bills and pump replacement.
- Kept our staff lean, productive, and focused on cost savings.

For the first time in 4 years, the South Fork Sewer District will need to raise our quarterly rates because of unprecedented increases in fuel, labor, materials, and laboratory testing.

The rate increase will be **\$1.50 per month (\$4.50 a quarter)**, beginning on **June 1, 2023**.

While we can't guarantee that rates won't go up in future years, the District continues to work very hard to keep rates low.

- We are extending our treatment plant outfall pipe to reduce the need for major (and costly) treatment plant improvements.
- Working to obtain grant funding for future treatment upgrades.
- Conducting regular lab testing in-house to ensure we are treating our effluent to meet our discharge permit and protect our river.

We still have among the lowest user rates in the region and will continue working to keep those rates low for you.

If you have any questions about this rate increase, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office at 208-753-8041.

Thank you for continuing to be a South Fork Sewer District patron.

Sincerely,

South Fork Coeur d'Alene River Sewer District Board of Trustees