

## City water estimates ‘misleading’

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An article in the Jan. 31 Bee on proposed water rates is the third article I have read with the same statement, “City officials estimate the monthly bill for the typical single-family residence would go from about \$25 today to about \$50 in five years.”

This is accurate based on the city’s claimed average household use of 14,409 gallons. If you look at the current rate for consumption (\$.61) compared with the proposed rate in 2018 of \$1.86, simple math will give you a number of 3. That is tripling the rate for consumption.

The city’s claim is misleading. When summer consumption kicks in, you will see something closer to 30,000-50,000 gallons consumption. Forty thousand gallons will cost \$46.13 today and \$118.17 in 2018. Assuming no changes to solid waste and sewer rates, that gives you a whopping utility bill of \$173 in 2018.

We need to take advantage of surface water, but we need to find a way to reduce the cost to the ratepayers.

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