

trucks to be spread on nearby agricultural fields as fertilizer. Treated sludge is currently being removed from the Tri-Lakes facility by Veris Industries.

The new Tri-Lakes chemical removal treatment process is not expected to cause any change in the treated sludge in the existing sludge lagoon that would make it ineligible for use as de-watered agricultural fertilizer. Agricultural land application is far cheaper than having to transport the treated de-watered sludge to a qualified landfill for disposal.

This treatment method contrasts with the treatment process used by the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility and its de-watered sludge transport requirement for weekly landfill disposal of its less-treated sludge. Upper Monument uses a sequencing batch reactor waste treatment process that is different than the adjacent Tri-Lakes facility's activated sludge process. Upper Monument does not have a sludge lagoon to treat sludge as completely as Tri-Lakes does over a two-year period. Upper Monument is surrounded by un-touchable Preble's mouse habitat and railroad tracks that preclude expanding the size of the existing Upper Monument property to build a sludge lagoon.

Current monthly local residential sewer rates are:

- Monument Sanitation District - \$30

- Palmer Lake Sanitation District - \$32
- Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District - \$28.63 (for up to 6,000 gallons) + \$3.84 per 1,000 gallons over 6,000 gallons
- Triview Metropolitan District - \$35.74 (5/8-inch tap) or \$43.10 (1-inch tap) plus \$3.84 (for up to 6,000 gallons) + \$4.04 (for 6,001 to 20,000 gallons), hence \$39.58 to \$50.98
- Donala Water and Sanitation District - \$30

Monument's current monthly commercial sewer rate is \$30 plus \$4.85 per each 1,000 gallons over 5,000 gallons.

Wicklund noted that district operations had produced a loss of \$10,027 in 2013 and \$14,823 in 2014. The current projected annual operating loss for district operations is \$84,843 in 2015. Wicklund estimated that the operating loss would be \$80,914 in 2016, assuming an increase in the 2016 Tri-Lakes facilities operations cost of \$30,000 for operating the total phosphorus clarifier expansion after construction is completed in mid-summer.

Wicklund said Monument's

amount of tap fee revenue was less than the current level of capital expenditure for 2014, and the difference would grow in 2015 and again in 2016 under the current tap fee structure. Monument's current residential and light commercial tap fee is currently \$4,500 plus \$300 per each fixture unit over 20 fixture units. Monument's heavy commercial tap fee is currently \$8,000 plus \$300 per each fixture unit over 30 fixture units. Fixture units for items like sinks, bath tubs, and toilets are defined in the Uniform Plumbing Code.

Legal expenses for the district's defense against a lawsuit filed against both Monument and Palmer Lake by Woodmoor are separate from operating expenses and have totaled \$61,239 to date this year, further draining district cash reserves. For more information on the lawsuit, see [www.ocn.me/v15n5.htm#tlfjuc0414](http://www.ocn.me/v15n5.htm#tlfjuc0414).

**Increase to be effective Jan. 1**

After extensive discussion, the board unanimously approved a motion to raise the monthly base rate from \$30 to \$35 per month and raise the commercial use

fee from \$4.85 per 1,000 gallons to \$5.10 per 1,000 gallons for monthly use over 5,000 gallons, effective Jan. 1, 2016.

A separate motion was unan-

imously approved to increase the residential and light commercial tap fee to \$8,000 for the first 25 fixture units plus \$300 per each additional fixture unit over 25,



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[www.townofmonument.org/departments/parks-and-recreation-plans/conceptual-parks-plan/](http://www.townofmonument.org/departments/parks-and-recreation-plans/conceptual-parks-plan/)



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