



NEWS RELEASE

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METRO WASTEWATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT BOARD APPROVES 2009 BUDGET

DENVER, July 16 — The Metro Wastewater Reclamation District's board of directors last night approved the 2009 budget at the District's regular monthly board meeting. It includes an annual charge for service of \$80,787,978 for 2009, which is a nine percent increase over 2008.

The annual charge is the fee the Metro District charges metro area cities and sanitation districts for treating their wastewater before discharging it to the South Platte River. Annual charges are based on the amount of wastewater treated and how much pollution must be removed. For existing households, this translates into an increase of about 68 cents a month.

The 2009 budget allows Metro to continue capital funding for major projects such as the \$67 million North Secondary Improvement Project, which began in late 2007 and is needed to meet more stringent nitrogen removal requirements recently imposed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. This project will cost roughly four times what the Metro District's original treatment facility did when it began treating metro Denver's wastewater in 1966. This North Secondary Improvement Project is one of a series of capital projects anticipated through 2019 that are anticipated to cost \$935 million.

The Metro District's 600-square mile service area includes most of metropolitan Denver, including all of Denver and parts of Adams, Arapahoe and Jefferson Counties. Arvada, Aurora, Lakewood, Thornton, and part of Westminster are included. About 1.6 million people are served.

The Metro District collects and treats about 130 million gallons of wastewater a day at the Robert W. Hite Treatment Facility five miles northeast of central Denver. This plant, which is rated for a design flow of 220 million gallons a day (30-day average), is the largest wastewater treatment facility in the Rocky Mountain West.

Formed under Colorado law in 1961, the Metro District provides wholesale wastewater transmission and treatment service to 57 local governments, including both cities and sanitation districts in metropolitan Denver.

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