To all Benchland Water Users,

The Benchland Board of Trustees has considered all costs and found it necessary to raise water user fees for the coming water year. This past water year, 2019, we were able to maintain the water use fees established in 2016 without an increase, but it was not without significant challenges. For 2020 the rates for all residential users will increase by $82.00 for the year, or $13.67 per month for the 6 months of water use. That increase will be reflected on the yearly statements being sent out next month. While that may seem a bit high, it is more competitive than most Districts in Utah charge. The increase is necessitated by, but not limited to, the following reasons:

WATER COST:
During the spring and early summer our water source is the mountain snowpack. Once that is gone (usually by late spring, early summer) we buy water from the Weber Basin Irrigation District. For the 2020 water year our cost for purchasing that water has increased by 47%.

INCREASE DEMAND FOR WATER:
With the expected increase in housing and commercial development and the amount of water used by our current customer base, we are projecting a need to purchase an additional 500 acre feet of water.

STATE MANDATES:
Utah Senate Bill 52 has mandated that after April 1, 2020 all new secondary water connections must be metered. As part of that mandate, Benchland had to submit to the Utah Division of Water Resources a plan, including a projected time line and cost for installing meters on the 5,633 current customers. At today’s prices that would cost $9,950,000.00. That information has been submitted. We understand, as does the state, that that is not possible to do at one time, it is something that we need to plan and budget for.

OPERATING COST:
Costs, including such things as taxes, benefits, fuel, equipment, repair, replacement of aging pipe, etc., continue to increase. The current management and operating staff have done a tremendous job to ensure these cost are being kept in line. We are grateful to have them on the Benchland team.

While we understand that increasing user fees is never an easy discussion to have, we hope all will understand the reasons and necessity for this year’s increase. Please keep checking our website, www.benchlandwater.com, for further updates and announcements and most importantly how we can all do a better job of conserving water.

Once again thank you for your understanding and support.

Respectfully,

Benchland Water, Board of Trustees