

## USER FEES, LATE CHARGES & INTEREST

Arizona Statutes define what kinds of fees and charges a Sanitary District may charge. User fees are described specifically in the following quote from ARS 48-2077.G and G.1:

*“G. Fees which the district may charge pursuant to this section include:*

- 1. User fees, which are proportional shares of the cost of the operation, maintenance and replacement of the wastewater collection, treatment and effluent disposal system.”*

A User Fee is not considered a service charge for services rendered.

On August 25<sup>th</sup> the ICR Sanitary District Board approved charging a user fee to all residential properties connected to the system. (Commercial use fees were already being charged and are still being charged.) The Board approved billing the fees on a quarterly basis in advance. See item 6.5 in the Minutes of the August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting:

**“6.5** The board discussed the subject of billing user fees on a monthly or quarterly basis which was left open in the budget and rate hearings. Bob Hilb made a motion to approve the quarterly billing in advance for Residential usage fees effective August 25th. Brian Ray seconded the motion. There was discussion on who would be billed and it was clarified that any house with an approved connection would be billed. Billing for the first fiscal quarter (July-Sept) would be sent early September (partial quarter). Bills for the second fiscal quarter (Oct-Dec) would be sent early October. The motion passed unanimously.” [\(Click here for full August 25th 2011 Minutes\)](#)

As stated many times before, the District was extremely short on cash when the current Board took office. The Board determined that the only way to ensure that adequate cash flow existed until tax revenue became available was to institute a user fee and collect them quarterly in advance.

| The District also may charge late fees and interest on unpaid balances as approved in the rates adopted in the. “A late fee of \$5 if the payment of any prescribed fee is delinquent for more than fifteen days. Unpaid user fees including any late fees assessed will accrue interest at the rate of 10% per annum. A lien will be filed on property for the nonpayment of user fees for services provided to the property if the payment of the fees is delinquent for more than ninety days” [\(link to rate hearing minutes.\)](#)

## BILLING & PAYMENT CREDIT

Some residents have been confused by the recent billing from the ICR Sanitary District. A few have assumed the bill was from the water company, and sent their payment to ICR Water Users. Checks made out to and sent to the water company are applied to the residents water account and not much can be done except make another payment to the ICR Sanitary District.

There have also been cases of delayed payments made via bank issued checks. Please contact your bank to insure prompt payment. We have had cases where bank dated checks have arrived two or more weeks after the date on the check.