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Our mission: Provide quality water and wastewater services to our current and future customers in the Lowcountry

VERNA ARNETTE, GENERAL MANAGER

March 1st Capacity Increase FAQs

1) Why is the fee increase needed?

- *BJWSA's service area is experiencing significant growth and corresponding demand for water and wastewater services. In order to serve this growth, BJWSA must build additional water/wastewater infrastructure, including treatment plant capacity, pump station upgrades, and new pipeline projects. The cost to construct needed facilities has increased substantially over the last few years. This fact, coupled with BJWSA's capital improvement planning horizon, necessitates the fee increases.*

2) How does the BJWSA Board vote from the January 23rd 2025 board meeting on capacity fee implementation impact the proposed fee schedule??

- *At the January 23rd, 2025, meeting, the BJWSA Board reviewed the implementation of capacity fees and the proposed February 1st increase. The board decided to delay this initial increase by one month, moving the effective date to March 1st, 2025. This adjustment only applies to the first increase; all subsequent dates remain unchanged and are detailed in the Public Hearing document.*

3) Can I still pay the full amount of capacity fees up front prior to having the pre-con or do I need to follow the new split payment schedule?

- *Yes. If you or your client would like to pay the full amount of capacity fees prior to pre-con you still can. The split of payment at pre-con and meters is a new option for the development community to help with the increases that are upcoming.*

4) If I pay the pre-con fee at the current rate (i.e., before 3/1/25), will I be charged any additional capacity fees, even if I get to the meter stage after 3/1/25?

- *By paying the capacity fees before March 1st, you are adhering to our current fee payment policy, and no additional fees will be due.*

5) Can I lock-in my total capacity fee paid (including meter stage payment) for a project based on when I pay the pre-con fee? For example, I pay \$7001 in March of 2025, but I don't get to the meter stage until September of 2025, which is after the meter stage fee increases.

- *Yes. With the new payment split, BJWSA allows project fees to be locked in for 24 months. For instance, if you make the first payment before a pre-construction meeting on April 2nd, 2025, you are locked into that fee rate for 24 months. As long as you complete your project or pay the*

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remaining capacity fees before April 2nd, 2027, your capacity fees will remain in the same fee bracket.

6) Do all the meters have to be paid for within the 24 months of paying the initial capacity fees at pre-construction?

- *No, all meters do not need to be purchased. Paying for meters is only required when the project is closed out and receives a service authorization.*

7) Can capacity fees be pre-purchased in anticipation of a future project?

- *Capacity fees can only be paid once the development project has received the quote from BJWSA engineering. Quotes for projects are not issued until a project has made it through BJWSA's design review and receives authorization for SCDES permitting or pre-construction.*

8) What if my project size changes between the pre-con stage and meter stage (i.e., number of REUs goes up or down)?

- *If there is an increase/decrease in REU's or GPD between the pre-con and meter stage then the meter quote will be adjusted to reflect the changes. As you know, following March 1st, once the capacity quote is paid at pre-con the project is locked into those capacity rates for 24 months. As long as the project stays within the 24-month period then the same fee bracket will be reflected on the meter quote but will reflect the increase/decrease in REU's or GPD.*

9) Can the meter(s) be paid for prior to a service authorization being issued?

- *Meter quotes are not sent out until a project is closed out and receives the service authorization. However, the payment for the remaining capacity fees can be paid at any time and does not have to wait until the project is closed out and ready for meters.*

10) How will commercial projects be quoted starting March 1st 2025?

- *Commercial fees will be quoted based on the approved fee schedule. Commercial project fees will be split into 2 payments at the calculated commercial hydraulic loading. For example, if there is a commercial restaurant that calls for 1,000 GPD of sewer and 1,300 GPD of water then the quote will reflect the GPD and multiply the loadings by the approved capacity fee bracket. If this same restaurant example occurred on March 10th 2025, which is after the first increase, then the quote would reflect 1,000 GPD of sewer being charged at \$17.87/gal at the time of pre-construction and 1,000 GPD of sewer being charged at \$12.13 at the time of meters. The same goes with water, the quote at pre-construction would reflect 1,300 GPD being charged at \$4.10. The quote at the time of meter(s) for water would reflect 1,300 GPD being charged at \$2.78.*

11) If the first portion of capacity fees is paid at pre-construction and the development project falls through and is never completed, can I receive a refund?

- *Any transfer, reassignment or sale of BJWSA water/wastewater capacity shall be done in accordance with the DPPM*