

Chisholm Trail Newsletter

CHISHOLM TRAIL SPECIAL UTILITY DISTRICT

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Independent Water Study Shows BIG Savings to Former CTSUD Customers in Bell, Burnet, and Williamson Counties

The Chisholm Trail Special Utility District (CTSUD) Board of Directors recently engaged an independent contractor to review water service rates in the surrounding area to see how CTSUD's former customers fare compared to other rural customers after the transfer of the assets, liabilities and customers to the City of Georgetown Utility Systems (GUS). The results bore out CTSUD's expectations and intentions in taking part in the transfer – CTSUD's former customers are not only experiencing lower rates than they did prior to the merger, but they are also experiencing lower rates than the average users of other rural water systems in Bell, Burnet, and Williamson Counties.

The results demonstrate one of the important benefits of the merger with Georgetown to CTSUD's former customers: *lower cost*. By taking advantage of the economies of scale involved with Georgetown's larger customer base, CTSUD's customers have not only seen a drop in their rates compared to what they previously paid to CTSUD, but also are avoiding additional costs compared with their counterparts who are served by local rural water systems.

Although the review focused on rural water systems in the three counties, it also covered city water systems as reflected in the water rates table provided on the following page. Due to the larger number of customers and benefits of economies of scale, cities are generally able to offer their customers lower rates than the rural systems. The review found that CTSUD's former customers enjoy

lower water rates than the average of each of the three counties' rates, even when considering in-city rates offered by water utilities located in these counties.

The review was based entirely on publicly-available information, and the City of Georgetown had no role in it. The review looked at residential water usage ranging from 2,000 gallons to 50,000 gallons per month. On average, CTSUD's former customers used approximately 12,000 gallons per month, so it is helpful to compare the amounts currently spent for 12,000 gallons of water versus the amounts they previously spent with CTSUD, and the average that would be spent for the same quantity of water if they were in a rural system in each of the three counties.

CTSUD's former customers using 12,000 gallons per month have seen an approximately 28% reduction in their water bills. They are also spending significantly less for the same amount of water than the average user of rural water systems in Bell, Burnet, and Williamson Counties, as demonstrated in the table below. The average rural water system user in Bell and Williamson Counties spends about \$30 more than CTSUD's former customers currently spend; the average rural water system user in Burnet County spends over \$40 more. In fact, there are only two rural water systems whose customers pay less than CTSUD's former customers – and the difference is less than \$5.00 per month.

Summary of Study's Findings

Costs for 12,000 gallons per month				
Previous	Current	Rural Water Utilities (average)		
CTSUD	GUS	Bell	Burnet	Williamson
69.00	49.80	80.34	92.03	82.11
	\$19.20	\$30.54	\$42.23	\$32.31

Post-transfer Savings

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Vol. 4, Issue 3
Page 2

Monthly Water Costs for Bell, Burnet, and Williamson Counties Rural Customers

Utility/County	Residential Meters	Monthly Costs per gallons used						
		2,000	5,000	10,000	12,000	20,000	25,000	50,000
Bell								
439 WSC	2,321	\$34.83	\$44.28	\$60.03	\$66.53	\$92.53	\$109.78	\$201.53
ARMSTRONG WSC	911	45.10	57.25	77.50	85.60	118.00	138.25	239.50
EAST BELL WSC	1,223	44.68	58.93	82.68	92.18	130.18	153.93	272.68
KEMPNER WSC	4,910	68.80	78.25	94.00	100.30	125.50	141.25	220.00
MOFFAT WSC	1,416	47.80	59.50	81.25	90.55	128.00	152.50	279.50
SALADO WSC	2,139	24.88	31.33	42.08	46.88	66.08	79.33	152.58
Bell County Average		44.35	54.92	72.92	80.34	110.05	129.17	227.63
Burnett								
BUENA VISTA WATER SYSTEM	122	9.00	22.50	49.60	62.28	113.00	149.30	349.20
CHANNEL OAKS WATER SYSTEM	53	69.59	79.19	95.19	101.59	127.19	143.19	223.19
CITY OF BERTRAM Outside city limits		5.93	17.75	42.50	52.70	93.50	119.00	246.50
CITY OF GRANITE SHOALS Outside city limits		61.23	71.28	93.40	103.04	159.20	198.80	396.80
CORIX UTILITIES TEXAS		74.60	89.00	119.40	131.56	193.95	238.10	492.60
WINDERMERE OAKS WSC	232	46.50	58.50	88.00	101.00	165.00	215.00	465.00
Burnett County Average		44.48	56.37	81.35	92.03	141.97	177.23	362.22
Williamson								
BLOCK HOUSE MUD	2,206	67.42	79.06	99.18	107.42	155.66	167.96	292.96
BRUSHY CREEK MUD	6,797	19.50	27.70	41.50	47.00	69.00	82.75	151.50
CITY OF BARTLETT	684	25.00	32.50	51.25	58.75	88.75	107.50	201.25
CITY OF FLORENCE	593	33.88	41.73	55.28	61.78	89.03	110.28	252.03
CITY OF LEANDER	13,452	76.01	93.02	121.37	132.71	178.07	206.42	348.17
CITY OF LIBERTY HILL	636	39.44	51.74	72.24	85.90	140.54	184.64	405.14
JARRELL SCHWERTNER WSC	1,512	52.00	61.75	81.50	92.50	136.50	166.50	316.50
JONAH WATER SUD	4,733	39.23	48.71	64.51	70.83	104.01	127.71	277.41
Williamson County Average		44.06	54.53	73.35	82.11	120.20	144.22	280.62
Rural Average for all Counties		44.29	55.27	75.88	84.83	124.07	150.21	290.16
CTSUD Pre-merger Monthly Costs	7,200	\$42.00	\$49.50	\$62.00	\$69.00	\$97.00	\$115.75	\$228.25
Post-merger Monthly Costs	8,700	\$31.00	\$36.25	\$45.00	\$49.80	\$69.00	\$89.00	\$214.00

To report out-of-service water emergencies or make any other call in regard to customer service, please call Customer Care at 888-474-4904 or 512-930-3640