



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

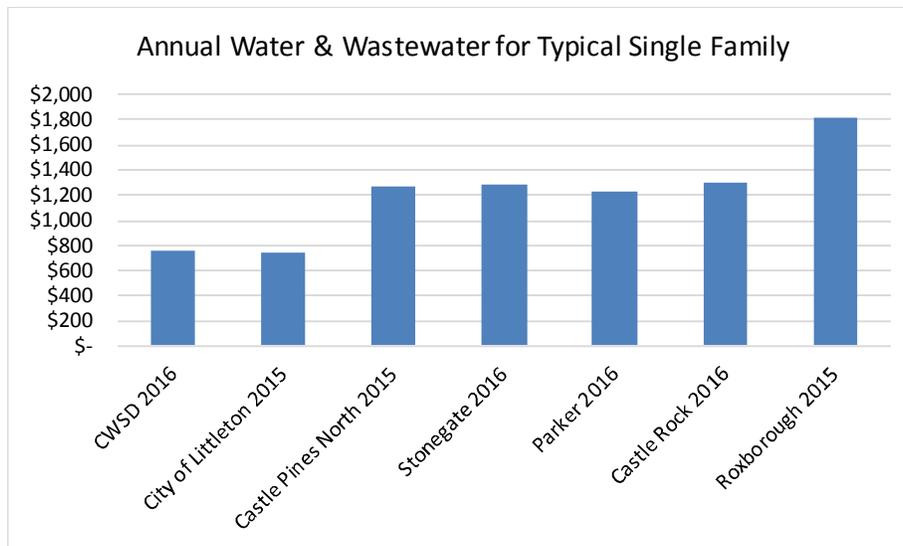
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Public hearings planned for 2016 proposed budgets and utility rates

The Highlands Ranch Metro District and Centennial Water & Sanitation District plan public hearings on the respective proposed 2016 budgets and proposed changes to the 2016 water and wastewater rates.

The Centennial Water & Sanitation District Board of Directors invites the public to comment on the 2016 budget and 2016 water and wastewater rates by attending the public hearing Monday, Nov. 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the District Office Building, 62 W. Plaza Drive.

The total impact from the proposed water and wastewater rate changes is estimated to increase the typical single family annual bill 3.4 percent from \$740 to \$765. Increases are proposed for the base water usage rate, the wastewater usage rate, and the fixed portion of the wastewater rate structure while the service availability charge remains unchanged. More information on the rate change and a comparison to other providers can be found below or at www.centennialwater.org.



The Highlands Ranch Metro District's public hearing on the 2015 revised budget and 2016 budget will be held Tuesday, Nov. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the same location. Members of the public have an opportunity to comment during the public hearing at either meeting.

Since 2015 was a reassessment year, most homeowners saw an increase in their property value that will impact their 2016 and 2017 tax bills. Highlands Ranch Metro District is subject to the property tax provisions of the Tax Payer Bill of Rights (TABOR). TABOR limits the allowable increase in tax revenues, therefore the significant increase in property values results in a lowering of the mill levy. What this means for the Metro District is even

though total property value increased 17.4 percent, the property tax revenue will increase 8 percent. Below is a table showing the impact to a single family home based on the preliminary budget:

	Assessors Market Value	Statewide Assessment Rate	Assessed Value	HRMD Mill Levy	Taxes
January 2014 for collection 2015	\$ 300,000	7.96%	\$ 23,880	19.713	\$ 471
January 2015 for collection 2016 (10% increase in home value)	\$ 330,000	7.96%	\$ 26,268	18.369	\$ 483
					DIFFERENCE IN AMOUNT PAID TO METRO DISTRICT \$ 12
January 2015 for collection 2016 (15% increase in home value)	\$ 345,000	7.96%	\$ 27,462	18.369	\$ 504
					DIFFERENCE IN AMOUNT PAID TO METRO DISTRICT \$ 34

The increased revenues will be used towards addressing the priorities of the district, including:

- Enhanced fire and emergency services
- Increased funding for major repairs and replacement of aging assets
- A continued high level of service

For more information about this process and the public hearings, please contact Centennial Water or the Metro District at 303-791-0430. Learn more about Centennial Water at www.centennialwater.org. Visit the Metro District's website at www.highlandsranch.org.

Founded in 1981 as the local government in Highlands Ranch, Colorado, the Metro District provides a variety of municipal services to this planned community of 95,000 people. Learn more about the Metro District at www.highlandsranch.org.

Centennial Water & Sanitation District is the water and wastewater utility in Highlands Ranch. Centennial Water provides high quality water through the Joseph B. Blake Water Treatment Plant located in Highlands Ranch. Wastewater is treated at the Marcy Gulch Wastewater Treatment Plant to meet stringent water quality standards before it is discharged. Over the past 34 years, Centennial Water has built a reliable and highly-respected water portfolio, based on a conjunctive use system, to serve its customers. Its major water source is surface water from the South Platte River, supplemented with groundwater from deep aquifer wells throughout Highlands Ranch. For more information about Centennial Water & Sanitation District, which serves Highlands Ranch, please visit www.centennialwater.org, or call 303-791-0430.

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