

## Castle Rock Town Council passes water rate increase

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Town Council passed a water rate increase beginning Jan. 1, 2012. The rate increase would add 4.6 percent more to the average residential customer's bill, or another \$ 4.68 per month.

Castle Rock Water includes four enterprise services - water, water resources, wastewater and stormwater - and serves 15,600 customers. Council passed the rate increase as part of a five-year schedule of increases, which are evaluated annually. This is year two of the five-year schedule.

Next year's Water budget is just under \$34 million, which includes four primary areas of expense:

- Capital projects - \$15.6 million for major maintenance, replacement and repair of existing infrastructure; not attributed to growth
- Electricity - \$2.5 million to power/operate systems and facilities
- Personnel - personnel makes up \$5.8 million of the budget
- Plum Creek Wastewater Authority - \$4.3 million for previous facility expansion debt service and wastewater treatment

Currently, most of Castle Rock's water comes from nonrenewable groundwater aquifers pumped from about 50 wells around Town. The wells range from 45 feet deep to more than 2,000 feet deep. Once drawn from a well, the water is treated at one of four treatment facilities and then enters the distribution and storage system.

In order to provide adequate water for the future, the Town also will need to invest in renewable water resources and is pursuing a plan, which would ultimately provide 75 percent renewable surface water and 25 percent nonrenewable groundwater.

The Town is in the process of constructing a renewable water plant and selecting a supplemental long-term water provider. For more information on the process and potential providers, go to [CRgov.com/waterRFP](http://CRgov.com/waterRFP).