**Land owner vs. tenant billing policy discussion: 6-28-23**

A community member expressed concern with the option of billing tenants. There’s 2 ways we can bill customers.

Option 1: Do not offer an option to bill tenants. Only bill the property owner, making the property owner responsible for paying WCSD for services and collecting payment from their tenants if and how they choose.

Option 2: Currently how WCSD bills. Offer an option to bill the tenant. If the tenant is billed the property owner also receives a bill to monitor bill status. Ultimately, the property owner is still responsible for the bill if the tenant does not pay. A deposit is charged of $100, and credited to the account after 1 year if payments are all made on time. There are currently 7 tenants we bill.

Recommendation: There are only 7 tenants currently being billed as option 2. I don’t believe it will make a big enough financial difference to change to option 1 and stop billing tenants in comparison to the service that is offered as a choice to property owners. We rarely have new tenants and the bills automatically print. The cost to offer this service is minimal and mostly is postage and envelopes for 7 bills a month. Property owners are ultimately responsible for the billing in both options, and performing shut off notices at 60 days past due keeps the balance low enough to not become a burden on property owners. I recommend we keep billing as option 2, but I encourage the board to think about the pros and cons and make an unbiased decision for the community as a whole. We can try to get community input or survey opinions but keep in mind the cost to the district to do that. We can table the discussion for next month if the board would like to talk to members of the community on their own time. We can post on the Weott Community Watch Page and a notice at the post office with our phone number to survey opinions. If the board decides to change the policy we will need to update it and it will take a couple of months to go through the approval process.