

# \$45 Monthly EID Bills?

## “All-in” customer cost averages \$161 monthly

EID’s in-house propaganda machine continues to spew out woefully incomplete and willfully deceptive numbers to camouflage profligate spending and how much EID truly costs the average ratepayer.

The lead article for the November-December 2012 “*The Waterfront*”

portrays an EID average water bill of just \$45 per month.

But, January 1, 2013, the average EID water and sewer customer will have an “all-in” cost from EID of \$161 monthly (\$1932 annually):



Water	\$ 59/mo <sup>1</sup>	(\$708 annually)
Sewer	\$ 67/mo <sup>2</sup>	(\$804 annually)
Property tax subsidy	\$ 20/mo <sup>3</sup>	(\$240 annually)
Accounting gimmicks	\$ 15/mo <sup>4</sup>	(\$180 annually)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$161/mo</b>	<b>(\$1932 annually)</b>

General Manager Jim Abercrombie has proven himself a master in contorting data to obscure his abject failure to control costs. In 2013, per employee salaries are surging another 6%, benefit costs are increasing to \$49,000 per employee, travel and meeting costs are more than doubling, more than 100

employees have a dedicated take-home vehicle, and two \$500,000 slush funds, \$14.3 million of headquarters administration, and \$60 million of new debt are planned.

Abercrombie further has moved \$4 million of debt repayments and \$3.1 million of engineering costs out of 2013 through “smoke and mirrors” accounting gimmicks... real 2013 costs that he is leaving for future ratepayers to pay starting ten years from now after he and the current Board are long gone.

And all these numbers exclude \$53 million of unfunded pension and retiree medical costs which, if payment were amortized over ten years, would require a further \$136 of annual rate increases.

EID ratepayers need and deserve immediate cost cutting and honest accounting... otherwise the crippling financial hole Abercrombie and the current Board majority have dug will just get deeper.

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1 .6 acre feet annually /4356cf bi-monthly, plus surcharges (.6 acre feet annually is the average usage per residential water customer as recorded in EID’s **2012 Water Resources and Service Reliability Report**)

2 1,800cf bi-monthly winter usage

3 \$9.5 million property taxes divided by 39,000 ratepayers

4 \$4 million of deferred 2013 debt repayment plus \$3.1 million of capitalized engineering expense