

FixEID Chronicles

From: "Greg Prada"
Date: August 10, 2012 10:34:18 AM PDT
To: undisclosed recipients
Cc: "Bill George", "Richard Esposito"
Subject: **EID sewer bills are devastating businesses**

EID's sewer bills are devastating west El Dorado County restaurants and businesses as noted in the attached (see next page below) one page advertisement from a local restaurant owner.

While General Manager Jim Abercrombie claims it is tertiary treatment and lift stations that cause EID sewer bills to be so high, the far bigger reasons are EID's beyond reasonable costs for 50% excess wastewater treatment capacity, for overly-lavish employee pensions and medical plans and for a bloated Mosquito Road overhead which has surged \$10 million annually in the last ten years.

EID prematurely added wastewater treatment capacity for 30,000 additional residents at a debt cost of \$5 million annually. Restaurant owners in particular are unfairly penalized for debt service on that excess capacity... each more than \$2,000 annually.

And EID's sky-high employee pension and medical costs, along with bloated overhead account for another \$3,000 annually of the average restaurant sewer and water bill of \$11,000 annually.

Burdening restaurants with \$5,000 per year of EID excess capacity, overhead and employee benefits costs is unfair and will push more of these businesses out of El Dorado County.

Since the average EID Agriculture bill is just \$900 annually it's not hard to see that 400 Agriculture customers had 40% of the seats at the table on the five member Citizen's panel of EID's recent cost study while 800 restaurant owners and other commercial businesses had 0% of those seats.

EID's Board granted one year extensions in raising rates for 1,300 domestic irrigation customers and 100 recreation turf customers. Now that it has surfaced how unfairly Jim Abercrombie's new sewer rates treat restaurant owners (and to a lesser degree other commercial sewer customers) the Board should roll back restaurant and commercial sewer rate hikes to 2011 rates and let restaurant owners and commercial customers participate in setting their new rates... just as Agriculture and the City of Placerville were able to participate in setting their new rates.

It's not too late for the EID Board to rectify this wrong... at least not for the west El Dorado County restaurants and businesses that still are hanging on.

ZacJack Bistro
3275 Coach Lane, Cameron Park • (530) 676-2969
 Open Daily • www.zacjack.com

Chef John Evans is a seasoned industry veteran with 31 years of experience in the operations of freestanding restaurants with extensive knowledge of service.

He is also a honors graduate of Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts. He has worked and trained under Chef Mark Hopper of Thomas Keller's Bouchon in Las Vegas. He also opened Mesa Grill in Caesars Palace with Bobby Flay.

Lynnette Evans, wife and co-proprietor, invites you to enjoy El Dorado County Wines and French wines selections from her wine list.



Zac Jack's is a gastro bistro serving "Everyday Gourmet Cuisine". The affordable restaurant serves delicious California cuisine prepared using

classic French cooking techniques and farm fresh ingredients.

Zac Jack serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. On the menu are the likes of short ribs reduced in cabernet or Guinness beer, wood-roasted chicken, flatbreads, small plates and "structured salads."

ZacJack is open daily for breakfast from 8 to 11 am, lunch 11 am to 4 pm and dinner from 4 to 9 pm.



Opinion

~ By John Evans

Economic Development in El Dorado County is in EID hands. They control the water.

This is second in a series of articles about the closing and effects of Zachary Jacques Restaurant and the attempt by the owners to reopen as a new restaurant.

The day after my advertisement printed in the July 20th issue of The Windfall, the phone at ZacJack Bistro started ringing off the hook! I received phone calls from several other local restaurants, landlords and property management companies who called to say that they too have received EID sewer bills reflecting charges that have doubled.

The resounding question posed to me was, "John, how can we help?" It appears that my opinion piece about the soaring costs involved in running a restaurant here in El Dorado County is a very 'hot topic'.

I contacted EID to see if there is some way to lower the water/sewer bills incurred by myself and other local restaurants.

I know all about food costs, but truthfully, EID 'poop' costs? Give me a break!

The EID employees that I talked to were all very nice and empathized with my struggle to keep up with the increasing costs for water/sewer services. It was explained to me that EID really has no way to reduce sewer costs in their by-laws. *Knowing that bit of information I would not recommend opening a fine dining*

restaurant that is hooked up to a sewer in El Dorado County.

Use your voice! Businesses affected by these increases need to speak up. Help is needed in telling EID that water/sewer bills should be lower, not higher!

At this point, *if your business was located in Folsom you would pay half the sewer costs that you pay here!* As businesses close in El Dorado County residents will need to drive down the hill to shop and dine.

El Dorado County has the water. Did the powers that be sell us out to the Counties down the hill? The **EID board members do have the power** to change, modify or do deferrals to those sewer customers most affected by the new rate increases!

Affected business owners are encouraged to call me, Chef John, for information on a free breakfast I am hosting at my restaurant, ZacJack in Cameron Park.

Together with those of you who have already contacted me regarding this issue, we can be 'the voice' that will be heard August 13th! (530) 676-2969



The El Dorado County Business Community NEEDS YOU!

Please attend the next EID Board Meeting on August 13th at 9:00 a.m.

Be seen, heard & help!

THIS IS A PAID ADVERTISEMENT