

Mountain Pass and SaddleBrooke Rate Cases

Frequently Asked Questions

When were the rate cases filed?

Mountain Pass Utility Company ("Mountain Pass") and SaddleBrooke Utility Company ("SaddleBrooke") concurrently filed applications with the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") seeking increases in rates and charges for water utility services on April 3, 2026.

When were the current rates established for each of the companies?

SaddleBrooke's rates were set in 2021.

Mountain Pass has never had a rate case, and their rates were set 26 years ago, in 2000 when it was granted its initial Certificate of Convenience and Necessity.

Who is JW Wastewater Utility Company?

In this case, the companies are proposing consolidation of the two individual sewer utility companies Mountain Pass and SaddleBrooke. JW Wastewater Utility Company is the company name that would result from the consolidation.

How much are the rate increases being requested?

If the Commission approves the request for consolidation and the requested increase for the consolidated utilities, JW Wastewater Utility would see an increase in annual revenues of 66.78% or \$2,305,858. The bill for a residential customer would be about \$64.66 per month.

If the Commission does not approve consolidation, the requested increase in annual revenues for Mountain Pass is 130.85% or \$1,492,124 and 35.02% or \$809,952 for SaddleBrooke.

On a stand-alone (unconsolidated) basis, residential customers with a 5/8 inch or 3/4 inch meter would see the following changes:

Mountain Pass customers' monthly bill would increase from \$49.25 to \$116.62.

SaddleBrooke customers' monthly bill would increase from \$34.95 to \$46.57.

The final rate increase will not be known until the Commission Staff, and any other interested parties, have an opportunity to conduct a thorough review and provide their evidence to the Administrative Law Judge who will make a recommendation to the Commission who will ultimately approve the final rate increase. This process is expected to take approximately 12 months.

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Why are the rates changing?

In addition to inflation and the current rates being below the cost of providing utility services to customers, the companies have made investments in their sewer systems to ensure safe and reliable utility services and are allowed the opportunity to earn a fair return on its investments.

When will the rates change?

Under the Commission's rules for processing rate cases, new rates are expected to become effective on or about May 1, 2027.

Who sets the rates customers pay?

The Arizona Corporation Commission comprised of 5 elected commissioners.

What can I do if I struggle to pay a bill?

There are several programs that provide assistance to qualifying individuals. Customers can call the Arizona Department of Economic Security at their state-wide toll free number, 1-800-582-5706, for information on eligibility and application requirements. Please also refer to the Financial Assistance Programs listed on the Arizona Corporation Commission website:

<https://azcc.gov/utilities/financial-assistance-programs>

Additionally, SaddleBrooke and Mountain Pass provide flexible payment options for customers to allow for additional time to spread out past due balances and make payments more manageable.