

**From:** HBresident

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 22, 2018 2:53 AM

**To:** Ann Yang <anny@hermosabch.org>; City Clerk <cityclerk@hermosabch.org>; City Council <citycouncil@hermosabch.org>

**Subject:** Supplemental to 5/22/2018 Council Agenda Public Hearing Item 5-b Re: ANNUAL LEVY FOR,,THE SEWER CHARGE

Kindly redact full and complete personal email addresses. Thank you.

**Supplemental to 5/22/2018 Council Agenda Public Hearing Item 5-b Re:  
ANNUAL LEVY FOR, THE SEWER CHARGE**

May 22, 2018

**To: The Hermosa Beach City Council and Others.**  
**From: Howard Longacre, Hermosa Beach resident.**

## **Gentlemen and Ladies:**

Since the creation of this de facto sewer tax without electorate approval, i.e with this sham reverse "protest vote" scam, the so-called "Prop-218 Loop Hole" for fees, the City Council seems to be systematically turning the sewer fee (which should only be used for maintenance of sewers) into a unnecessarily growing SLUSH FUND. You've been collecting some million dollars per year from the inattentive property taxpayers and essentially doing nothing on the sewers.

Last year it took my effort to even have the fee properly identified as being a Hermosa Beach fee on the latest property tax bills. Prior to that, at the outset of the sewer fee, it took my efforts to display what, in my view, and as a Civil Engineer by degree, was a thoroughly sloppy and incompetent job by Jeffrey M. Cooper, the same consultant engineer still being hired by the city year after year, and who in my view is probably laughing all the way to the bank, taking his fees from this city, thanks to the legal Loop-Hole made available in prop 218 for elected officials to rip off their own electorate.

God only knows how many errors are in the latest work accomplished by Cooper, as I doubt the city is doing the kind of analysis on his data, that I did pro-Bono when I found so many sloppy errors in his work at the inception of the sewer fee. The City has denied me the data ever since for essentially bogus reasons of "privacy" of water billings. That's ludicrous. My work finding all the sloppy errors in Cooper's work saved many property owners in city from being overcharged thousands in the city's sham sewer fee.

Notwithstanding, placing another yearly 2% increase on this fee, is unnecessary and outrageous. Compounding increases on this fee, year after year, of 2%, just because you can do it, is a gross abuse of the council's fiduciary powers. The staff report does not include, that I could see, a full audit of all expenditures to date, along with money's in the account at startup, and detailed accounting's ever since.

The 2% fee increase should not be implemented this year. You are collecting money faster than it is needed. Stop robbing your electorate. You'll still be collecting another million dollars with the increase council approved unnecessarily last year into the de facto sewer slush fund.

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