

From: [Deborah Goldeen](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Cc: [City Mgr](#)
Subject: Dean Bachelor
Date: Saturday, February 11, 2023 11:36:33 AM

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Bachelor's response to "the spike" was inadequate and insulting. CPAU needed to send out an all points bulliten warning people! \$1,800 for an elderly person on a fixed income? (please see link to nextdoor thread). I hope CPAU and State of CA is working double time to figure out how to get rebates to people.

Deb Goldeen, 2130 Birch, 94306, (650)799-3652

From my neighborhood: https://nextdoor.com/p/MZw3xfz3cwNq?utm_source=share&extras=NzU1NDgy

From: [V.K. Rajaram](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Utility Rates
Date: Friday, February 10, 2023 5:18:23 PM

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Hi,

My understanding is that despite the city having a \$40M surplus, the residents were asked to vote for Measure L.

In light of this season's astronomical rate increase, I urge the city to reconsider transferring funds from the City's natural gas utility to the general fund. I'm sure that this Measure wouldn't have passed had everyone been aware of the city's surplus.

In fact, the fact that it was a decades old practice should have prompted the council to question why it was in place and not have it on the ballot. I look to the city council to demonstrate fiscal responsibility by questioning the city budget and make sure that the various departments are implementing cost cutting and efficiency measures every year.

VK

From: [Keith Ferrell](#)
To: [Council, City](#); [City Mgr](#); [Batchelor, Dean](#)
Subject: Utility Costs
Date: Friday, February 10, 2023 4:45:30 PM

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All,

What is happening with Palo Alto utility costs, specifically gas costs? This is the second month in a row where our costs have increased by a large margin.

Last month, our year-to-year gas usage was up a little under 20%, but our daily gas charges were up over 150%!

This month our gas usage is up a little over 20% and our daily charges were up over 210%!

Is this any way to run a business?

In the past, we have been asked to reduce waste and recycle more. When we did that our rates increased because we didn't have enough garbage going to the dump. We've been asked to save water. When we do that, our rates were increased in order to meet capital costs. When we do what is "needed" our rates increase.

What you are doing now is simply price gouging your residents. This is not simply a matter of the city paying more for their gas and passing it on to the consumers. Someone needs to explain why these prices have jumped dramatically and what is being done about it. I also expect that if there is a surplus in the Utility Fund, that it gets refunded to the residents instead of put into the General Fund.

This is ridiculous. You all need to do better.

Keith Ferrell

From: [Parul Sharma](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Cc: [Representative Eshoo](#)
Subject: 3x high electricity and gas bill in Palo Alto
Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 5:03:37 AM

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Hello

I am a concerned Palo Alto resident writing about the unreasonable rise in utility bills. Our bill in January was a whopping \$1500 while our consumption patterns have not changed. This is 3 times our normal bill.

We aren't the only ones facing this issue.

Hi Neighbors, I'm sure this question was asked before but I wanted to know what can be done about the super...

Hi Neighbors, I'm sure this question was asked before but I wanted to know what can be done about the super high utility bills I have been receiving.

nextdoor.com

The city cannot pass on its inefficiency to its residents. No other neighboring cities are experiencing this spike. We pay exorbitant sums to buy homes here and pay high California taxes.

If the city does not remedy this situation, the residents will protest and raise the issue to higher levels of government. I am ccing Congresswoman Anna Eshoo on this email.

Parul Sharma