

Aamodt Decision for Members of the Tesuque Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association – Communication #7

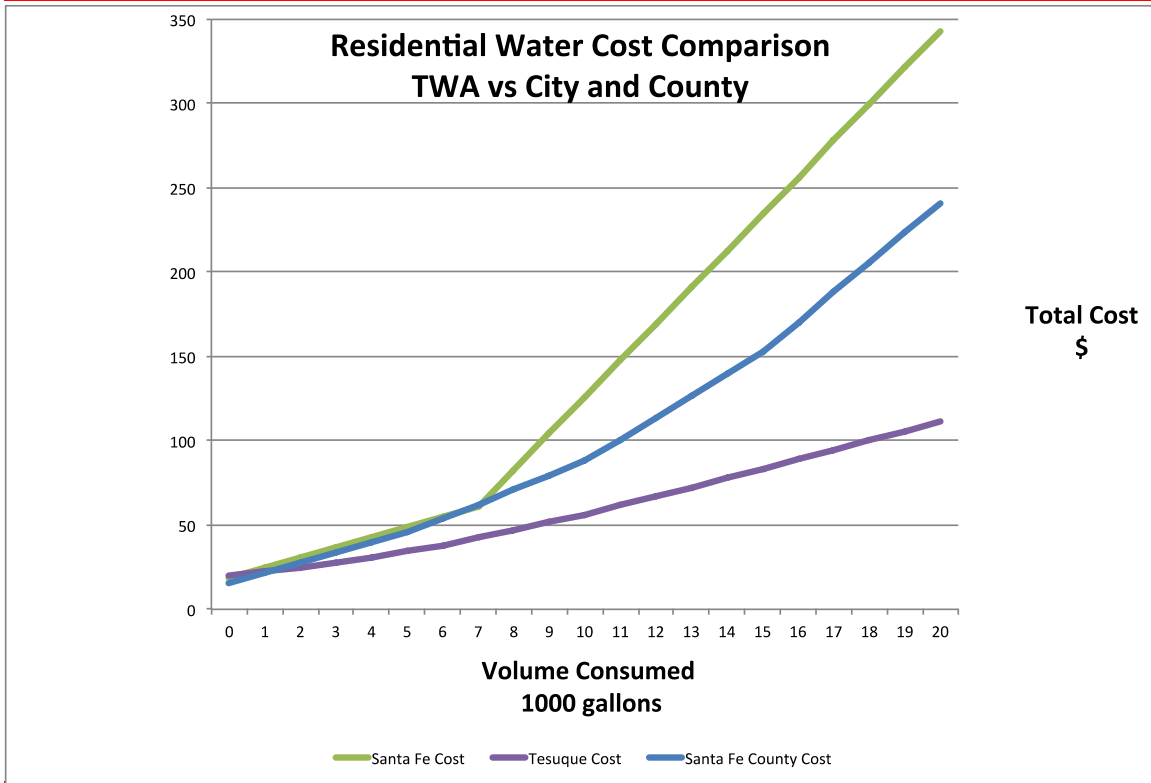
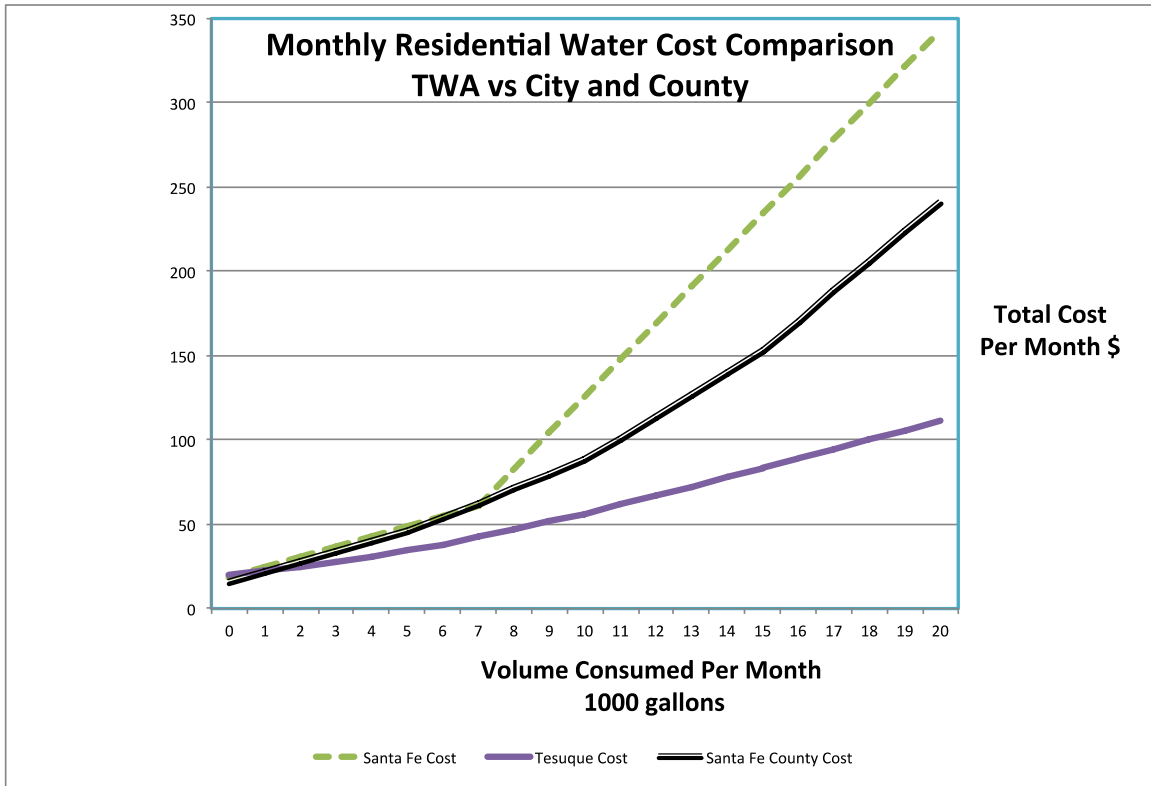
- **How old is the Tesuque MDWCA and how is it managed**
 - Tesuque MDWCA began in 1962 with the drilling of the first water well and a contribution of water rights from a total of 33 families. Before joining the Tesuque MDWCA, these 33 families were sharing water from a total of 12 wells. In August of 1979 construction of the current system was completed. The new system consisted of a water tank, water distribution system, and metering. It was completed at a cost of approximately \$110,000. The well we are currently using was drilled in April of 1979. The system was built through the dedicated efforts of the Tesuque Community and today serves almost 90 Members. This system has provided a reliable source of very good quality water for over 50 years. Today, an all-volunteer Board made up of 5 Association Members manages the Association and provides oversight to the execution of its policies. The Board annually elects the Officers of the Association, including President, Vice President, Treasury, and Secretary that execute the policies of the Board. The Association also contracts for an Operator and Bookkeeper. The Community should be proud of the Association's very existence and that Association Members have continued to volunteer to serve on the Board and actively participate in its management for all these years.
- **What is the current financial condition of the Tesuque MDWCA**
 - Our Association is financially on sound footing as our revenues cover our ongoing expenses. We have also established savings account reserves that can be used to cover the cost of unexpected repairs to our system and a Capital Improvement account towards replacement of major components of our system (Storage Tank, Distribution System, or Water Well). Outside funding would be necessary if one or more of these major components of our system had to be replaced, which could increase the cost of water to our Members.
- **How do the water rates for Tesuque Water Association compare to other water systems.**
 - Water rates are lower for our Association than those paid for the City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County. All three of these systems have a progressive rate structure that charges more per one thousand gallons of usage for higher total usage. The differences in cost between our Association costs and these other water systems increases with increasing water usage. For example, for a typical Association Member who uses about 7000 gallons per month the monthly bill for Tesuque Water Association is \$43 while City of Santa Fe will charge \$61 and Santa Fe County will charge \$62. For users of 20,000 gallons per month the respective costs would be Tesuque \$111, City of Santa Fe \$343, and Santa Fe County \$241. (See attached chart for additional comparisons of cost).

This communication is part of the Board's ongoing effort to inform our Members on issues related to the potential impacts of the Aamodt Agreement.

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