

Communication from Public

Name:

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Comments for Public Posting: See attached document

I am compiling some comments from Reddit users from r/LosAngeles from articles about RUBS:

- We had this for electric for my grad school housing. It was so awful. Some folks were running multiple Bitcoin mining rigs (this was in the days where it was profitable to do from home), and we all had to subsidize them. My neighbor used to run the AC with his windows open because he liked the cool air, but didn't want it to get stale. Had higher electric bills for my half of a 2BR than when I finally got a house ten years later without adjusting for inflation.
- As a person working to house people in the Affordable Housing™ industry, many of the people I've housed in newly built subsidized housing are also are billed with RUBS. People paying 30% of their General Relief income of \$221 for their subsidized rent are being charged over \$100+ each month for utilities, making it impossible to keep them housed and paying rent without going into the negative.
- I live in a rent controlled apt but the whole building shares water bill. Usually its about \$50 but some months it would go up to \$300! Theres only 17 units in the building.
- Our building is one of five in a community and we house the laundry, pool, and gym. Our shared utilities are outrageous and we've asked for breakdowns and they refuse to provide them. Every single question is stonewalled with legal threats. It's insane.
- RUBS should be banned for any utility that has a variable cost or metered. The conservation argument is laughable when if everyone used 1hcf of water and someone leaves their faucets running 24/7 using 100hcf, we all split the bill equally. You can be on vacation for a whole month but still get a full-priced bill! If your complex has landscaping or a pool, forget it. You're secretly paying for it even if there is a landlord portion. Landlords also have no incentive to fix leaks when tenants will be splitting the water bill. Landlords should either include these things as part of the rent or put meters on every apartment.
- I wasn't using my AC but still got charged a crazy amount just because my neighbors were. So now I use it a bit more so now we all have to pitch in on that extra cost. We also carry the burden if the building has low tenancy.
- Tenant 1 uses ac non stop 24/7 during the summer. The rest of the Tenants only use it in the afternoon. Is it fair that the whole electricity bill is getting split amongst the Tenants that rarely use electricity over Tenant 1 who uses it 24/7?

- My shared utility bill for water trash gas and sewer at a small apartment in a huge complex is easily 2 to 3x my separately billed DWP and Gas bills and probably on par or more than the 3 bed house I was living in previously before it was split 3 ways. Absolutely ridiculous.
- Most definitely a great way for Landlords to use fraud to pocket money by charging more for utilities. Especially if they are avoiding showing master bills.

[Comments from:

https://www.reddit.com/r/LosAngeles/comments/1khvzce/our_site_la_tenants_demand_their_landlord_stop/

and

https://www.reddit.com/r/LosAngeles/comments/1v2pm5a/their_utility_bills_skyrocketed_so_they_stopped/]