

**CITY OF RICHMOND UTILITY USERS TAX  
ADMINISTRATIVE RULING AND INTERPRETATION (2.0)**

Authority. Pursuant to Section 13.54.130 (b), 13.54.040 (c) and 13.54.050 (d) of the City of Richmond Telecommunication and Video Tax Ordinance (Chapter 13.54, Ord. #7-08 N.S.), the Tax Administrator hereby adopts the following administrative rulings and administrative interpretation:

**Administrative Ruling (Universal Service, Regulatory and Administrative Cost Recovery Charges).** "Charges for telecommunication services" shall include, and is not limited to, the following charges, which have been historically subject to the utility users tax as "universal service, regulatory, administrative and other cost recovery charges":

State

*California PUC User fee*  
*Universal Lifeline Telephone Service (ULTS)*  
*California Telenet Fund (CWTF);*  
*California Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program (DDTP);*  
*California High Cost Fund-A (CHCF-A);*  
*California High Cost Fund-B (CHCF-B);*  
*California Advance Service Fund (CASF)*

Federal

*Universal Service Fee or Universal Connectivity Fee (USF)*  
*Federal Regulatory or Cost Recovery Fee, which may include cost recovery charges for: Federal Regulatory Fee; Telecommunications Relay Service; Number Portability and Number Pooling, among others.*


"Charges for telecommunication services" shall not include the federal excise tax (FET) or the *state 911 Surcharge*, which is defined by statute to be a tax (Calif. Rev. and Tax Code Sec. 41013), and historically have not been subject to the utility users tax.

"Charges for video services" shall include: *FCC User Fee or FCC Regulatory Fee*

**Limitation.** This Ruling is intended to give general guidance and should not be viewed as providing a definite answer to all factual situations, as the exact application of the tax will depend on the nature of the service, the manner in which it is billed (*e.g.*, bundled or unbundled), and other factors that could bear on whether the utility users tax is applied or not applied.

**Effective and Expiration Dates.** This Ruling shall automatically expire on January 1, 2018, so that the conditions then existing may be reviewed, and the Administrative Ruling may be thereafter revised, as appropriate, and then re-adopted. Nothing herein, however, shall preclude the Tax Administrator from revising or rescinding this Administrative Ruling at any time.

City of Richmond Finance Director and UUT Tax Administrator

  
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James Goins

Date: January 17, 2013