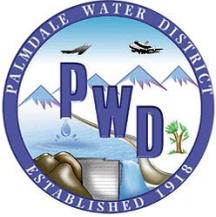


PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT

2029 East Avenue Q • Palmdale, California 93550 • Telephone (661) 947-4111 • Fax (661) 947-8604



ROBERT E. ALVARADO

Division 1

JOE ESTES

Division 2

Board of Directors

MARCO HENRIQUEZ

Division 3

KATHY MAC LAREN

Division 4

VINCENT DINO

Division 5

www.palmdalewater.org Facebook: Palmdale-Water-District Twitter: @PalmdaleH2O



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mike McNutt: 661-456-1041 (w), 614-390-7930 (c), email: mmcnutt@palmdalewater.org

Laura Gallegos: 661-947-4111 x5312 (w), email: lgallegos@palmdalewater.org

Rate Adjustments Help Ensure Water Security for Palmdale

Palmdale, CA- On Wednesday night the Palmdale Water District passed a slight 4.25% rate modification instead of the initially proposed 5.5%. This minimal rate adjustment will increase customers monthly service fee approximately by \$2.02-\$2.50 per residential household. The District continues its efforts to keep rates competitively low for its customers while expanding its water portfolio to ensure local long-term water reliability.

The Palmdale Water District has made it a priority to expand its water resources by utilizing recycled water and eventually making it available to its customers. Rate payers benefit from localized water by minimizing Palmdale's reliance on outside sources such as unreliable and costly State water. The District has developed an innovative project called The Palmdale Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project that would make regionally produced water feasible.

"Newfound investments in smart, sustainable, and resilient infrastructures is a catalyst for job creation, economic competitiveness with an equitable and shared prosperity here in the Antelope Valley," said Robert Alvarado, Board President of the Palmdale Water District. "Water is the lifeline that serves our community members, schools, hospitals and businesses, which provides the foundation for future needs, growth and community stability. As a member of this community and Board, I want the District to continue to do what is necessary to provide clean, healthy and superior tasting water to our community".

Comparatively, the rate adjustment passed last night would, on average, still cost Palmdale Water District customers less than what most neighboring water agencies charge monthly. Based on a survey of monthly residential rates, Palmdale Water District customers currently pay an average of \$52.45/month, whereas on average customers for Quartz Hill Water District pay \$53.47, LACWW Region 34 pay \$57.47, and Rosamond Community Services District pay \$65.48.

"The resolution was written in a fair and flexible manner that allows for water rate decreases from development, growth or other revenue sources if the District expands its active meter connections", said Vincent Dino, Vice President of the Palmdale Water District. "This is another example of how the PWD works to pass cost saving opportunities to our residents".

The District has programs in place such as the Rate Assistance Program that assists customers with their monthly water bill for those that qualify as low income seniors, veterans or families. Interested customers must also qualify for the California Edison or So Cal Gas CARE Program. The District encourages all rate payers who meet the criteria to inquire and apply; applications are available online and in the office. For more information on the Palmdale Water District, including the Rate Assistance Program, visit www.palmdalewater.org.

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