



**PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT**

A CENTURY OF SERVICE

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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Contact:

**Judy Shay**

*Public Affairs Director*

d: 661-456-1041

c: 661-297-3011

[jshay@palmdalewater.org](mailto:jshay@palmdalewater.org)

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**Laura Gallegos**

*Public Affairs Specialist*

d: 661-441-5944

c: 661-208-2581

[lgallegos@palmdalewater.org](mailto:lgallegos@palmdalewater.org)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **PWD TO HOLD WORKSHOPS & OPEN HOUSE TO DISCUSS PROPOSED RATE CHANGES**

*Palmdale, CA* – To help the public understand how the recently proposed rate adjustments will ensure the reliability of water for customers, Palmdale Water District (PWD) will hold two community workshops and an open house in the next two months. Staff will be available at the outreach events to review PWD’s 2019 Rate Study process and answer questions about the proposed revenue increase.

The workshops are scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 28, at Palmdale Learning Plaza, 38043 Division St., Palmdale, and Tuesday, Sept. 24, at Buena Vista Elementary School, 37005 Hillcrest Drive, Palmdale. Both will be from 5:30-8 p.m. The open house is set for 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Sept. 7, at Leslie O. Carter Water Treatment Plant, 700 E. Avenue S., Palmdale.

“We encourage our customers to attend the open house or one of the workshops so that they can be informed about the changes being proposed,” said PWD General Manager Dennis D. LaMoreaux. “As a public agency,

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it is our duty to be transparent as we make decisions that will allow us to ensure safe, clean and reliable water every time our customers turn on their faucets.”

The Board of Directors voted unanimously last week to support a plan that would raise revenue by 8.1% annually for the next five years (2020-2024). This revenue increase would allow PWD to meet all operations costs, fund \$30 million worth of capital improvement projects and boost reserves to a healthy \$16.2 million at the end of 2024.

According to the proposed rates, customers who have a one inch or smaller meter will see their fixed monthly cost go up from \$37.77 to \$38.22, or 45 cents. The average single-family household in the PWD service area use an average of 17 hcf (hundred cubic feet) of water. The bill for the average family using 17 hcf, based on the proposed increase, would be \$58.63 per month, compared to the current \$53.56.

“I believe the option my fellow Directors and I chose is the best for our District,” said Board President Vincent Dino. “It keeps rates for our customers, who use water wisely, at an acceptable amount while allowing for the upkeep of the infrastructure and existing water supplies. It is the responsibility of our Board to prepare for emergencies with a healthy reserve and to plan for the future of our 101-year-old agency.”

Robert D. Niehaus, Inc. (RDN), an economic consulting firm, provided the Board with revenue options after months of analyzing PWD’s financial data to determine water rates needed to maintain economic stability for the next five years. The consultants used five years of financial data including budgets and audits; five years of detailed billing and consumption

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records, five years of water production history; and future water source and demand projects.

The Board of Directors will hold a public hearing at 6 p.m. on Oct. 28 at PWD's main office, 2029 E. Avenue Q, before voting for the proposed rates. Written public protests must be submitted to PWD before the end of the public hearing. The official Public Hearing Notice, which will have the criteria for filing a formal protest, will be mailed soon to all property owners within PWD's service boundaries.

Since 1918, the Palmdale Water District has provided high-quality water at a reasonable cost. We pride ourselves on providing great customer care; advocating for local water issues that help our residents; educating the community on water-use efficiency; and leading our region in researching and implementing emerging technologies that increase operational efficiency. For more information about PWD, visit [www.palmdalewater.org](http://www.palmdalewater.org).

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