

Department of Water Resources

California Water News

A daily compilation of significant news articles and comment

January 25, 2005

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STATE FUNDING

**DWR and SWRCB Announce Prop 50 Grant Packages
News release, California Department of Water Resources -
1/24/05**

SACRAMENTO – The Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) have issued draft Proposal Solicitation Packages (PSPs) for the Proposition 50, Chapter 8 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program. The draft PSPs for both the Planning Grants, and Implementation Grants, Step 1 programs can be found on the following web sites:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/funding/irwmgp/>

<http://www.grantsloans.water.ca.gov/grants/integregio.cfm>

The intent of Chapter 8 is for projects to protect communities from drought, protect and improve water quality, and reduce dependence on imported water. The draft PSPs provide the instructions for potential applicants to apply for grants under the Chapter 8 Program.

A public meeting to answer questions on the Draft Planning Grants and Implementation Grants, Step 1 PSPs and to accept comments will be held on the following date and location:

Tuesday – February 1, 2005 - 10 a.m.
California Environmental Protection Agency Building
Byron Sher Auditorium
1001 I Street, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

This public meeting will be web broadcast for Internet access at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/broadcast/>. During the broadcast listeners may e-mail comments or questions to: dfa_grants@waterboards.ca.gov.

For more information on the draft PSPs and public meeting, contact Tracie Billington, DWR, at (916) 651-9226 or Sudhakar Talanki, SWRCB, at (916) 341-5434.

All written public comments must be received by 5 p.m. on February 9, 2005. Please e-mail comments to Tracie Billington at tracieb@water.ca.gov

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<http://www.publicaffairs.water.ca.gov/newsreleases/2005/01-24-05prop50.cfm>

LOCAL DISTRICTS

Homeowners' water bills may overflow

Vote on sizable hikes to be tonight

Los Angeles Daily News - 1/24/05

By Charles F. Bostwick, staff writer

LANCASTER -- Tens of thousands of homeowners in much of the Antelope Valley face water rate hikes of more than 33 percent under a proposal to be voted on today by Los Angeles County supervisors.

Water rates would go up 31 percent to 33 percent in March and 8 percent to 9 percent in July for more than 50,600 homes and businesses that the Los Angeles County Waterworks District supplies in west Palmdale and Lancaster.

Rates would go up 19 percent to 37 percent in March and an additional 1 percent to 5 percent in July for the Waterworks District's 7,200 east valley customers.

"This is to adopt both those," Waterworks senior civil engineer Greg Even said about today's vote on the March and July increases. "We did the second tier in part to try to lessen the first tier."

County officials said the average monthly residential bill would increase between \$10.70 and \$24.74 per month, with 70 percent of bills increasing less than \$15 per month.

Officials are also proposing to institute three levels of rates -- conservation, normal and excessive -- in which water gets costlier as a homeowner uses more each month.

Antelope Valley households use about twice as much water as households in Los Angeles, records show.

The supervisors will conduct a hearing on the proposed increases at 9:30 a.m. today in downtown Los Angeles.

At public meetings last fall, at which the proposed rate hikes were explained, residents complained that the increases should be spread over more years. They also questioned whether they would be paying for new homes.

Waterworks officials said the cost increase was needed to serve existing customers and would not go toward subsidizing new homes.

Waterworks officials said the immediate rate hike was needed because rates should have been raised more years ago, but weren't. They say the waterworks district has been depleting its financial reserves and facing its own rising costs for purchasing water, storing water for dry years and meeting new water-purity standards.

Present rates are less than half those in Los Angeles, officials said.

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, whose district includes the Antelope Valley, wants county officials in the future to re-examine rates annually to see whether costs warrant increases, rather than waiting several years, his staff said.

"You don't want to go four or five years and have a big increase," said Antonovich deputy Paul Novak.

Lancaster and west Palmdale customers now pay \$9.34 to \$14.01 a month for the first 500 cubic feet of water -- about 3,700 gallons -- and 54 cents to 95 cents plus a 5-cent surcharge for each additional 100 cubic feet.

Most Lake Los Angeles residents pay \$11.46 a month and 60 cents plus the 5-cent surcharge for each additional 100 cubic feet. Other rural east valley areas pay as much as \$17.88 a month plus \$1.22 and the 5-cent surcharge.

Under the proposal, the "excessive" rate would kick in when customers exceed 6,500 cubic feet a month in the summer and fall and 3,000 cubic feet in the winter and spring.

The price would double for water used beyond the 6,500 cubic feet in summer and 3,000 cubic feet in winter. In addition, the price would go down 10 percent for people who use less than 2,000 cubic feet in summer or 1,500 in winter.

The price the district pays for California Aqueduct water went up in January and will go up a total 32 percent over the next two years, officials said.

The district is also spending \$7 million to modify water purification facilities to meet impending new health standards and will spend \$1.4 million a year storing water underground in the valley's declining aquifer.

Waterworks' fees charged to new-home builders are proposed to go up 74 percent, the first increase since 1985, officials said. In addition, county officials are devising a new fee that would pay for acquiring new sources of water, such as buying water that Northern California farmers don't need. #

<http://www.dailynews.com/Stories/0,1413,200~20943~2671640,00.html#>

LOCAL DISTRICTS

Water districts' two managers sharing duties
Whittier Daily News - 1/24/05
By Mike Sprague, staff writer

CARSON -- In an unusual move, two regional water districts one of which serves the Whittier area have appointed co-general managers. The Central and West Basin Municipal Water Districts, which have a common staff, have appointed Art Aguilar and Rich Nagel co-general managers.

"Art and Rich's overall knowledge of the water industry and its nuances is a tremendous asset to Central Basin,' said Bob Apodaca, president of the Central Basin board. "From their collective experience to their management skills, they are highly qualified to excel in these positions.'

The Central Basin district is a member of the Metropolitan Water District and sells water to private and public utilities in the southeast area, including Whittier.

The appointment of two general managers is unusual, although it has been done before, said Jennifer Persike, spokeswoman for the Association of California Water Agencies.

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District and the Imperial Irrigation District have had co-managers, but don't now, Persike said.

"From what we know, that would be a unique arrangement,' she said. "It's innovative, and sometimes districts have issues that require different approaches.'

Aguilar agreed that it is unusual to have two general managers, but said that he and Nagel have worked well together so far.

"I don't think anybody could say we haven't been doing our normal job here,' he said. "In fact, we found that at various times we have solved one of the problems of being general manager trying to be in two places at one time. Well, we can.'

Aguilar and Nagel have served as acting co-general managers since May. They replaced then-General Manager Darryl Miller when he was placed on administrative leave.

The districts eventually agreed to pay Miller \$275,000, or 18 months' severance pay.

Nagel and Aguilar each handle different aspects of the district.

Aguilar takes care of public affairs and government relations departments, and Nagel is in charge of water quality, engineering and operations departments. They will jointly take care of personnel, administration and support services.

Some local water officials say they have concerns about the arrangement.

"It would seem to hinder the district functionally," said Jim Glancy, president of the Central Basin Water association. "It would seem to be a little clumsy."

Glancy said his concerns have nothing to do with Aguilar or Nagel, but worries that the setup might not be efficient.

"I think they're pretty good people," he said.

Don Jensen, Santa Fe Springs public works director, also has concerns."

"I would hope that it leads to a streamlined management that's beneficial rather than creating a two-headed monster that is difficult to deal with," Jensen said.

"My experience is that when you have two heads like this, it gets confusing as to who's responsible for what."

But Aguilar said so far they haven't had a disagreement.

"We discuss the issues until we can come to some sort of resolution."

Nagel has more than 17 years of experience in the water and wastewater industry. Before being appointed co-general manager, he served as manager of water quality for the two districts.

Before working with the districts, Aguilar spent 30 years in the newspaper business as a reporter, editor and publisher of community newspapers. #

<http://www.whittierdailynews.com/Stories/0,1413,207~12026~2671949,00.htm>
[1#](#)

ORGANIZATIONS

American Water Works Association Elects New President; Terry Rolan to Assume Presidency in June 2006 News release, AWWA - 1/24/05

DENVER - The American Water Works Association (AWWA), the authoritative resource on safe water, has announced the election of North Carolina water utility veteran Terry Rolan as its next president-elect.

Rolan, director of the Department of Water Management for the City of Durham, N.C., will assume the AWWA presidency in June of 2006, following the one-year term of Andrew Richardson. Richardson succeeds current president Kathryn L. McCain in June 2005 at the AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition in San Francisco, California.

"I am thrilled and excited to be selected to lead the AWWA," said Rolan, who was elected at the Board of Directors' recent meeting in San Diego. "My service will allow me to give back some of what AWWA has given me in experience, training and information. My goals for the organization include improving service delivery to our 57,000-plus individual members and working with our 4,700 utility members on new opportunities to improve revenues and reduce costs of service, while making continuous improvements in service delivery to our customers. I also want to provide partnership opportunities with member sections throughout North America and continue to use technology to expedite and expand communication throughout the organization."

Established in 1881, AWWA is the oldest and largest nonprofit scientific and educational organization dedicated to safe water.

"Terry has one of the top water utility minds anywhere, and he understands the issues facing the water community," said AWWA Executive Director Jack W. Hoffbuhr. "He will bring a great deal of depth and experience to the job, and AWWA will continue to thrive under his leadership."

A graduate of Berry College in his native Georgia, Rolan received his Masters in Public Health from the School of Public Health, Department of Environmental Science and Engineering at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 1974. He began his employment with the City of Durham as a Sanitary Engineer in 1973. After obtaining both a Grade IV NC Wastewater Operator's Certificate and a Grade A NC Water Operator's Certificate, he moved up in the organization to his present position.

Throughout his 30-year career with Durham, Rolan has been involved with several volunteer organizations at the state, regional and national level. He served in all leadership levels of the North Carolina Section of American Water Works Association/North Carolina Water Environment Association and has served on the AWWA Board as both a Director and a Vice President. In the past, Rolan has served on the Boards of the AWWA Research Foundation and the Water Environment Federation. He currently serves on the steering committee for the Drinking Water Research Center at UNC-CH and the Research Advisory Committee for the University of North Carolina Water Resources Research Institute.

For his service to the water and wastewater industry, Rolan has received numerous awards, including the George Warren Fuller Award (AWWA), the Arthur Sidney Bedell Award (Water Environment Federation), and the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Department of Environmental Science and Engineering, UNC-CH School of Public Health. He was named as an Honorary Member of AWWA in 2000 and was awarded Life Membership in AWWA in 2002. Rolan has a wife, Linda -- also an active AWWA volunteer -- and the couple have four sons and seven grandchildren.

Other AWWA leadership elected by the Board of Directors and set to take office June 2005 as Vice-Presidents include:

- Steven Burns, president of B.M. Ross Consulting Engineers in Goderich, Ontario
- Mari Garza-Bird, principal engineer with CDM in San Antonio, Texas
- Nilaksh Kothari, general manager of public utilities for Manitowoc, Wisconsin
- Mike Leonard, client technical services manager for Brown & Caldwell in Atlanta
- Janice Skadsen, water quality manager for Ann Arbor, Michigan

The Association's director-at-large position will be filled by Bryan Jordan. Christopher Jarrett was elected Manufacturers'/Associates' director-at-large.#

<http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=42043>

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