

WYNOLA WATER DISTRICT PUBLIC MEETING

Water Rate and Fee Increase Proposal

December 20, 2014, 10:00am

Spencer Valley School, Santa Ysabel, CA 92070

President Bernard called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. District personnel present were: JoAnn Bernard, President, Director Jack Bainbridge, Treasurer Robert Gans, and Office Manager Joyce Gans. Wynola Estates property owners present were Bill Stovall, Marion Moore, Stan Goudy, Malcolm Dyos, Bud and Barbara Segni, Ron and Maureen Placa, and Debbie Bainbridge. Also Andre Peron from Warner Springs Water District attended.

President Bernard began the meeting with a reminder of the Mission Statement for Wynola Water District:

To Provide clean, clear, potable water for the needs of the Wynola Estates Property owners on a continuing basis meeting all regulations.

1. President Bernard summarized the proposed increase in water rates:

0 – 130 units: from \$1.50 per unit to \$1.75
131-200 units: from \$2.50 per unit to \$2.90
200+ units: from \$10.00 per unit to \$11.50.

Quarterly Water System Maintenance Fee: From \$21.00 to \$40.00.

The increase in the water rates and Maintenance Fee is projected to increase the districts revenues by approximately \$10,000 per year.

It is also planned to ask the community to approve an increase in the annual Water Availability fee (included on the Property Tax bill) from \$150.00 to \$275.00. The District needs to obtain the County's requirement for requesting and documenting property owner approval.

If approved the increase in the Availability fee is projected to increase District Revenues about \$10,750 a year.

2. Director Jack Bainbridge explained the purpose and reasons for the rate increase. He stated that the District received only four written protests from property owners out of 86 possible responses. Acceptance of written protests ends at the end of this meeting. The increase in the Water Availability Fee, if approved by the property owners, will be included in the 2015-2016 property tax bill to be sent out in July 2015.

3. Public Comment: Mr. Dyos stated that he basically supports an increase, however he thinks the structure of the proposal is unfair. He would like to see more of an increase in water usage rates, instead of in the fixed fees. Marion Moore supports Mr. Dyos' statement stating that she voluntarily conserves her water. Stan Goudy agreed with Mr. Dyos. Mr. Stovall, a former President of the Water District, appreciates the Water Board's efforts and supports the proposal. He agreed that the District should keep a substantial cash reserve for emergencies and replacements.
4. It was clarified that although there are actually 10 wells in the district only five wells are currently in use.
5. Mr. Placa stated that he also agreed with Mr. Dyos and the Board's plan.
6. The District's highest operating expense is for electricity. Stan Goudy asked what the procedure was for increasing the rates.
7. Mr. Gans gave a recap of the procedure that was followed to arrive at the current proposal, emphasizing that it was a consensus resulting from a number of different suggested approaches. He also referred to the Water Rate Study that was done by an independent water engineer which recommended substantial increases in the rates and in the capital reserve.
8. Mrs. Segni stated that she did an informal survey of friends in other districts and found that our rates are very low in comparison.
9. There were no further comments or questions, and the meeting adjourned at 11:04 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce E. Gans

Joyce Gans
Office Manager