

# **PUBLIC NOTICE—CITY OF GROVER BEACH**

## **NOTICE OF INTENT TO CIRCULATE PETITION**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** by the persons whose names appear hereon of their intention to circulate the petition within the City of Grover Beach for the purpose of REPEAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 23-37, “A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GROVER BEACH, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING THE MASTER FEE SCHEDULE FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES”, adopted December 11, 2023, in order to reestablish the lawful master fee schedule for water and wastewater rates in effect immediately prior to its adoption.

A statement of the reasons of the proposed action as contemplated in the petition is as follows:

The Grover Beach City Council voted to DOUBLE WATER & WASTEWATER RATES within four years, starting February 2024 for city water users, including schools, businesses, churches, and mobile homes. These outrageously high and destructive increases pay Grover Beach’s 36% share of the Central Coast Blue Joint Powers Authority (JPA) that includes Arroyo Grande and Pismo Beach and has tripled in cost to over \$99 million. A JPA wastewater treatment plant to process Pismo wastewater for future development will be located in South Grover near residential areas and includes 16 wells and miles of pipelines that will be trenched and bored into newly repaired, mostly residential, Grover Beach streets. The astronomical prices for this small amount of water and likely future price increases defies California’s declared state water policy that “every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable and accessible water,” as guaranteed by California Water Code Section 106.3.

The Central Coast Blue project will take years to complete. California’s State Constitution prohibits fees or charges based on future use of a service and requires services to be actually in use or immediately available (Article XIII D, Section 6(b)(4), enacted by voters as part of Proposition 218). The rate increases impose fees for services that do not exist.

Moving this new infrastructure project to Grover Beach should have been decided by a vote of the people of Grover Beach, not by the mayors of two other cities. The families, seniors, tenants, businesses, and people on fixed incomes in Grover Beach have already funded their water infrastructure and supply and should not be paying for the future growth of Pismo and Arroyo Grande. Central Coast Blue cannot fulfill its claim as a drought or seawater intrusion buffer because it draws from the current basin in times of drought and plans to drain the basin 50% more than we do now. Its own reports indicate that by further depleting our water basin, Central Coast Blue puts us at greater risk of seawater intrusion.

The families, seniors, tenants, businesses, and people on fixed incomes in Grover Beach ask their city council to commission a current independent technical review to find fiscally sustainable backup water and put it to the vote of the people before turning Grover Beach into the wastewater processor for Pismo Beach and Arroyo Grande and financially compromising its citizens, city, and environment.

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/S/ Andrea Seastrand 851 N 5th Street Grover Beach 93433

/S/ Adolfo J Medina 579 S 9th St Grover Beach 93433

### **A Citizen’s Initiative Measure to Repeal Water and Wastewater Rate Increases Enacted by City Council Resolution No. 23-37**

The purpose of this measure is to ask registered voters in the City of Grover Beach if they wish to repeal Resolution No. 23-37, adopted by the Grover Beach City Council on December 11, 2023. The resolution authorizes a rate structure allowing for increases in water and wastewater rates over a five-year period beginning February 2024.

Resolution No. 23-37 was enacted to fund water and sewer projects within the City, encompassing various infrastructure improvements, including upgrades to a booster station, reservoir maintenance, increasing sewer line capacity and upgrading aged sewer lines. The water rate increase was also enacted to fund the City’s share of costs for the Central Coast Blue recycled water project, a collaborative project involving the cities of Grover Beach, Arroyo Grande, and Pismo Beach.

Successful passage of this measure would repeal water and wastewater fee increases enacted under City Council Resolution 23-37 and would necessitate a reevaluation of the City’s financial ability to complete planned infrastructure improvements.