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16450 Walnut Ave  
Atascadero, CA 93422  
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Marcia Joyce  
Water District Manager  
Garden Farms Community Water District  
17005 Walnut Ave  
Atascadero, CA 93422

I am a resident of Garden Farms since 2013. My wife has been a life long resident minus a couple of years. We appreciate all of the residents for what they do and their contributions to the Garden Farms Community (ie. board member positions, parades, farmers market, or just being there for our neighbors.) This is what truly makes Garden Farms unique and what brings this community together.

I am however concerned about the proposed water rate increases. I feel that the fees are a bit extreme. We are talking about a 100% increase in base and 68% over-base rate. Rates have increased with other services such as garbage. When I first starting paying my bill for garbage back in 2013 the fee was \$64 and has since increased to \$66.40. An increase of 3.75%. This increase is much more palatable than the proposed water rate increase. I feel that these inflated rates are being imposed due to several factors.

1. The cost that was associated with Well #3 being put back on-line.
2. Not as much revenue due to drought restrictions resulting in less water usage.
3. The Board looking for a quick fix.

We all know that if these rates take effect that the fees will never come down. That is just reality. My question to the board is this move to quickly solve a one-time expenditure (Well #3) or has it been truly researched and properly thought out? Have we increased our expenditures for services provided to those individuals running the water district? Show us the breakdown of the last 2 years for payments made either to contractors working on the system or to those who receive a credit, stipend, or some other form of benefit for their services rendered.

I propose that this rate increase gets tabled for further discussion so all members of the community can be properly informed and other solutions or ideas can come forth. It is also my opinion that if a rate increase is made, that there should be something in writing that states the fees will be reevaluated at a specific time to determine if the increase is still warranted.

Sincerely,



Matthew Jeckell  
Resident