

Dear GFCWD:

August 18, 2017

First of all, I would like to state that I'm against the water rate increase as proposed.

Let's be clear as to why water revenues have declined over the last few years. We are in a drought, so we are told to reduce consumption so we don't drain the aquifer and come up with no water. So now we are asked to pay more because we are using less while our neighbor from the ranch across El Camino, waters useless weeds all day long during the height of summer.

I also don't feel like the Board can compare other cities in the north county with what is happening in Garden Farms. We are not a large city with lots of infrastructure. We don't buy expensive water from northern California. Our operating expense are very low compared to the surrounding communities. Our water needs are greater than the surrounding communities due to property size and the established permanent plantings that surround this neighborhood.

Trees and large bushes need water in a drought. It's evident that the reduced watering has stressed many of these large trees and bushes. Many of my trees have dropped large branches that are dead and small bushes have completely died.

My main objection with the rate increase is the amount (about 100%) of the increase and who the increase will affect the most. Forcing the people, who have struggled with reduced consumption at the low end of the scale, to bare a large burden (100% increase) seems unfair.

My proposal would be to reduce the base rate to a 50% increase (\$75) and increase the tier1 rate to \$25 per 1000 cu. ft. and add a tier2 (for the big users) rate at \$40-50 per 100 cu. ft. This would force the wasters to pay the price and bring their usage down and start conserving like the rest of us already do.

Sincerely,

Glenn and Melinda Forbes

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