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To our valued Water District 19 Customers,

In the last year, it has become increasingly apparent that the District's maintenance and capital improvement budget is not keeping up with the need to invest in the District's infrastructure. We frequently dispatch crews to fix leaky water mains, and we know that the deterioration of aging pipes is partly responsible for leakage rates between source and customer that approach the state maximum standard of 10%.

To address these issues and thereby ensure a reliable supply of water to our customers, the District's staff, commissioners, and engineering firm have developed a plan to replace older water mains, reinvigorate our main well field, reduce brown water issues, increase fire flow, and install new fire hydrants where existing ones are widely spaced. The overall cost of this plan is several million dollars, and paying for it will require us to raise rates.

At the December 11, 2018 Board of Commissioners meeting, the Board approved an increase in water base and usage rates effective February 1, 2019. The last increase in base (fixed rates) was in 2014 and usage rates in 2011. The increase in base rates roughly catches us up with the rise in the cost of living since then. Further increases may be necessary as we get a more precise picture of the cost of the necessary investment in the District's infrastructure.

Mindful of the impacts on lower-income residential customers, the commission opted to weight the increase more heavily toward usage rates (which scale with consumption) than toward base rates (which are charged equally to all). Base rates will increase by 10 percent across the board. To mitigate the extra cost to people on a fixed income, the commission opted to include the first 200 cubic feet of usage in the base rate. As a result, the bimonthly bill for a 200 cubic-foot customer will increase by only \$3.50 every two months. Increases are steeper in the higher tiers, providing a greater incentive to use water wisely — which will enable us to rely only on our higher-quality water sources. Here are the new rates that are effective with the bills to be sent February 1, 2019, and a comparison to the old.

<b>Meter size</b>	<b>New base rate</b>	<b>Old base rate</b>
5/8" Meter	\$ 71.50	\$ 65.00
1" Meter	\$ 119.41	\$ 108.55
1.5" Meter	\$ 238.10	\$ 216.45
2" Meter	\$ 381.10	\$ 346.45
3" Meter	\$ 715.00	\$ 650.00
4" Meter	\$1,191.19	\$1,082.90
6" Meter	\$2,383.10	\$2,166.45
8" Meter	\$3,363.60	\$3,057.82

**USAGE RATES per 100 Cubic Feet**

<b>Residential</b>		
<b>Tier</b>	<b>New</b>	<b>Old</b>
0 to 200 cf	included in base	\$1.58
201-1000	\$2.40	\$1.58
1001 – 2000	\$3.75	\$2.11
2001 – 4000	\$4.75	\$2.79
4001 – 6000	\$6.50	\$4.51
over 6000	\$9.00	\$6.88

<b>Commercial</b>		
<b>Tier</b>	<b>New</b>	<b>Old</b>
0 – 1000	\$2.50	\$1.80
1001 – 2000	\$3.10	\$2.21
2001 – 4000	\$3.75	\$2.59
4001 – 6000	\$5.00	\$3.40
6001 – 8000	\$6.00	\$4.54
over 8000	\$6.40	\$4.54

We encourage customers to use water as efficiently as possible in order to keep their consumption within the lower tiers. (See our website for available conservation programs.) To the extent that Water District 19 customers do so, we will be better able to meet the needs of our customers into the future with our existing high-quality water sources.



Bob Powell, President



Seth Zuckerman, Secretary



Mike Weller, Commissioner