



# CITY OF INGLEWOOD



## **WATER AND WASTEWATER NEWS.....**

**Spring, 2012**

### ***Residential Water and Sewer Rate Increase***

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Dear Inglewood Water and Sewer Customer,

On Tuesday, March 06, 2012, the City Council voted to increase water and sewer rates. This is the first rate increase since 2003, even though the City's cost to purchase water increased 35% in the last four years alone. As a result of not increasing rates over the last nine years, the City has been unable to maintain the water system adequately and has been forced to use water reserves, which were set aside for critical capital and infrastructure improvements to operate the system and finance the deficit between water fees and actual costs to maintain water services. If the City Council had not approved the increases, the City's water reserves would have been exhausted by August 2012.

An independent water and sewer rate study confirmed staff's analysis that the existing rate structure was unable to sustain the ongoing operation and maintenance of the water and sewer system. As such, a water and sewer rate increase was recommended. The new water rate fees for a family of four (average use of 14 hundred cubic feet or 10,470 gallons) increased by \$12.60 a month, effective March 7, 2012. The second rate adjustment will increase water bills an additional \$7 a month, effective October 1, 2012. The increased residential sewer rates for a family of four will increase by \$1.19 a month, effective October 1, 2012. The water and sewer increases will allow the City to have a sustainable rate structure to pay for the purchase of water; fund ongoing system maintenance and operation; fund a capital improvement program, and maintain a reserve for emergencies (pipe leak and sink hole repairs, etc).

The City Council understands that this increase will place a financial burden on many of the residents; however, this action was necessary to ensure access to water, proper removal of waste, and adequate access to water for public safety purposes. The City provides a Utility Discount Program for qualified Senior and Handicapped customers and Special Refund Program for Senior Citizens. Under Utility Discount Program water service charge is reduced by 10%. Senior citizens, sixty two years of age or older get a tax refund charged on utility services. The City will periodically provide progress reports for infrastructure maintenance and improvements that are undertaken to provide transparency as to the use of water fees charged to customers. City staff members are available to answer any rate related questions/concerns at (310) 412-5310.

Thank you,

Artie Fields  
City Manager

# WATER AND WASTEWATER Q&A

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## ***How Rates were Determined?***

The existing rates were evaluated by an independent consultant, CDM Inc. to identify if the rates were adequate to properly operate and maintain the water and sewer system for the next ten years. The Consultants developed a 10-year revenue plan to ensure cost recovery rates based on revenue required to fund the purchase of imported water, and operation and maintenance costs. The rates also allow modest capital improvements and the maintenance of appropriate reserves.

## ***How the City Rates compare to neighboring Cities/Agencies?***

City residents will continue to pay less for water services as compared to other neighboring cities. An average residential household consuming 14 hundred cubic feet (10,472 gallons) per month pays \$70 in Hawthorne, \$70 in certain Inglewood areas served by Golden State Water, \$72 in Downey, and \$70 in Gardena. After the two rate increases, the average 14 HCF usage household served by the Inglewood Water Department will pay approximately \$64 a month.

## ***What are the Cost Savings Efforts by the City?***

The City has undertaken many cost cutting measures that impact the cost of operating the water and sewer system. These measures include employee furloughs, reduction of operation and maintenance costs, judicious use of City equipment/facilities and implementation/promotion of water conservation measures.

## ***What are the Water System Maintenance Efforts by the City?***

The City spends approximately \$16 million annually on the operation and short term maintenance of the water system. The rate increase will generate approximately \$5 million in additional revenue yearly, which will be used for improved operation and maintenance and more critically, on much needed capital improvement projects for the water system. Future capital projects include drilling of two new groundwater wells, which once completed, will lower the cost of purchasing water and decrease dependence on costly imported water.

## ***What is the Water and Sewer System Improvement Schedule?***

The City is preparing to begin a major roadway reconstruction project of Century Blvd and La Brea Blvd. In order to begin these projects, the City must first rehabilitate the water and sewer systems, which require the roads to be excavated. As a result, water and sewer rehabilitation on these roads will be our first priority. The City currently has a list of pipelines that are in most need of repair and the most critical will be made a priority. A schedule of repairs will be available on the City's web-site on May 7, 2012.

**City of Inglewood**  
**Public Works Department - Water Division**

**FY 2012-13, Proposed Water and Sewer Capital Improvement Projects**

The following is a list of Capital Projects that the City is planning to undertake in FY 2012-13 for improvement of existing water and sewer facilities. These projects will be funded by the increased water and sewer rates which the City adopted on March 6, 2012.

Particulars	Location	Tentative Scheduled to Start
<b>Water Projects:</b>		
Water Main Replacement Phase 3	104th, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 6th and other locations	October-12
Water Main Replacement at Fwy 405	Florence, Hillcrest	November-12
Groundwater Well # 7	102nd Street	Study completed. Well drilling January 2013.
Groundwater Well # 8	Location TBD	TBD
Preliminary Design of Morningside Reservoir		October-12
Emergency Generator	Water Treatment Plant	March-13
Water Main Rehabilitation/Replacement at Century	Century Boulevard	Scheduled per Street Imp. Project
Water Main Rehabilitation/Replacement at La Brea	La Brea Avenue	Scheduled per Street Imp. Project
<b>Sewer and Storm Drain Projects:</b>		
Sewer Lining Project	City wide, various locations	October-12
Storm Drain Improvement Phase 3	City wide, various locations	October-12
Sewer Master Plan		March-13
Storm Drain Master Plan		March-13
Storm Drain Monitoring	Outfalls / Receiving Waters (TBD)	TBD

TBD means to be decided.