Water Rate Increase Q & A

Q – Is the City increasing my water bill?

A – On June 11\textsuperscript{th}, the Bellflower City Council will hold a public hearing to consider increasing the water rates charged to customers of the City’s Municipal Water System (former customers of Peerless Water Company). The meeting will be held at Bellflower City Hall, located at 16600 Civic Center Drive, and will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Q - How much will my water bill increase?

A - The amount of increase depends on two factors: 1) the size of your water meter and 2) the amount of water used. For the average residential customer who currently pays about $80 every two months, the proposed increase would be about 88¢ a day.

Q - When will the increase take effect?

A - If approved, the increase would take effect on June 16\textsuperscript{th}, the first day of the next billing cycle after adoption. Any water provided before that date would be billed at the old rates; water delivered on or after that date would be billed at the new rates.

Q - Why is a water rate increase needed?

A - The City paid $5.8 million to buy the old Peerless Water System. The system was in poor condition and significant money and other resources are needed to make essential repairs and capital improvements. The rate increase is necessary to reimburse the City for the purchase price and to pay for needed repairs and improvements and to repay bonds issued to fund the purchase of the system.

Q - Why do customers have to pay to purchase, repair, or improve the system?

A - The Water System serves just over 1,800 customers out of more than 24,000 households and 3,000 businesses in the City. In purchasing the System, the City Council decided that it is unfair for the residents and businesses not served by the Water System to have to pay for its purchase, repair and improvement, because those residents already pay for such water related expenses to their own water supplier.

Q - Is there any assistance available to low-income customers?

A - In the event of a water rate increase, the City has established a program to assist qualified low-income residential customers with a credit equal to 50% of the increase to their water bill for a period of two years. For more information or to apply, please contact the Municipal Water System Office at (562) 531-1500.

Q - Who can I call for further information?

A - For additional information, please call the City of Bellflower Public Works Department at (562) 804-1424, extension 2285.