

Some Nipomo residents may receive state water

By Cindy Blankenburg

NIPOMO — Nipomo residents who receive water from California Cities Water Department could see a 76 percent increase in rates by January 1993.

Monday, the California Public Utilities Commission held a hearing to discuss a general rate increase in the Santa Maria service area which includes Nipomo, Lake Marie, unincorporated areas of Orcutt, the Tanglewood Housing Project, and Sisquoc, said Roger Brett, superintendent for the Santa Maria service area.

The meeting was held at 7 p.m. in the Lakeview Junior High School, 3700 Orcutt Road, in Orcutt.

The hearing asked the PUC to approve a 31 percent increase for 1993, a 6 percent increase in 1994 and a 6 percent increase in 1995.

The increase will cover various projects including a new well costing \$400,000, a new reservoir in the Orcutt Hills area costing \$1 million, and a roof on the Lake Marie reservoir costing \$100,000, he said.

Rates also cover \$300,000 to retain the rights to 3,000 acre-feet of state water.

Additionally, the higher rates will also include money for two new systems operators as well as higher

administrative costs.

Concurrently, California Cities has applied to the PUC for another rate increase to cover the projected 7,900-acre-foot entitlement of water from the California State Water Project.

California Cities originally applied in 1986 for 3,000 acre-feet of state water. It recently requested another 4,900 acre-feet from the Central Coast Water Authority, a coalition of Santa Barbara County water purveyors.

The company will then have to get permission from the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors to deliver 725 acre-feet of water to the 1,200 homes it serves in Nipomo.

A hearing to consider the 45 percent increase will be held in late summer or early fall, he said.

The company's customers are now being notified about the possible increase for state water.

The recent rejection of state water by voters in the Nipomo Community Services District could have an effect on the PUC decision since the NCSO is the dominant water purveyor in the Nipomo area.

Brett said, however, the PUC could approve state water if the majority of California Cities Water

customers request it.

Additionally, Brett stated in a meeting before the May election that California Cities would not sell water to NCSO if the voters reject state water.

He reiterated that point recently.

And, he said, the company would not sell water to other agencies if asked to do so.

The average customer uses 2,500 cubic feet of water per month, which means a \$24 water bill.

Connection fees will range from \$3,000 for residences to \$20,000 for 10-inch meter pipelines, but there are none that size currently in service.

Seminar can help nonprofits

SAN LUIS OBISPO — The San Luis Obispo Literacy Council, a nonprofit organization is sponsoring a series of summer workshops.

On Thursday, July 16 and 30 from 8 to 10 a.m., financial planner Amie R. Young will instruct a workshop on "Simple Steps for Business Planning for Nonprofits/Sole Proprietorships."

Workshop topics will cover budgeting, tax planning risk management, employee benefits and marketing. A workshop book will be provided.

Fee is \$15 per session.

For additional information contact San Luis Obispo Literacy Council for 541-4219.

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