



Initial Ideas and Concerns About WA-3 / WA-9 Ag Rates

Riverside Public Utilities Department

Agricultural Water Rates Task Force
April 26, 2018

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WHERE DID THESE COME FROM?

1. Community feedback from rate proposal outreach meetings
2. Feedback from City Council and RPU Board members
3. Public input from Board and Council Joint Workshops
4. Input from RPU staff
5. In no order of priority, importance, or feasibility

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INITIAL IDEAS

1. Separate meter service for irrigation only
2. Obtain Cap and Trade funding from capturing GHG
3. Drill private well to serve irrigation
4. Better utilize Gage Canal water
5. Pressurize the Gage Canal

INITIAL IDEAS (cont'd)

6. Develop fair ag water rate alternative to keep Arlington Heights Greenbelt "green"
7. Use water conservation funds to subsidize ag water
8. Reduce GFT to make up difference of subsidy
9. Use a portion of the GFT funds so City can provide assistance to agricultural customers
10. Utilize recycled water where available

INITIAL IDEAS (cont'd)

11. Spread out rate transition period longer
12. Existing Ag rates should be grandfathered in
13. Develop citizen initiative to subsidize ag rates
14. Establish Task Force to study issue

INITIAL CONCERNS

1. Compliance with Prop R and Measure C
2. Proposed increases too high for existing WA-3/WA-9 customers
3. Rates must not exceed cost of service
4. Rates must be fair
5. Riverside's citrus and agricultural heritage in jeopardy
6. COSA does not address City commitment to citrus and agriculture

INITIAL CONCERNS (cont'd)

7. Eliminating WA-9 is inequitable to Grove Preservation rate customers
8. RPU is not supporting Ag efforts by raising rates
9. Groves will die and wildlife will be negatively affected
10. Air quality will suffer from fallow land
11. Potential food hub, farm to table possibilities and GrowRIVERSIDE initiatives will be destroyed
12. Greenbelt is a treasured asset

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INITIAL CONCERNS (cont'd)

13. How are other agencies structuring similar rates?
14. Customers in Greenbelt should be able to get Gage shares back from the City
15. Proposition 218 compliance and litigation risk
16. Property values will decline
17. Missing economic development opportunities from urban agriculture

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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Ag Water Rates Task Force receive and file this report.