

Agricultural Water Rates Task Force

Emerging Ideas

Gage Canal

- Turn in Gage shares to get equivalent potable water from City system at gage cost, plus a transportation charge.
- Utilize existing potable delivery system to allow Gage Canal shareholders or agricultural producers to take reasonably priced potable water (\$200-\$300 per ACFT) under pressure as it will facilitate increased conservation measures as compared to gravity flow type irrigation methods.
- City should give back, or sell, some of their Gage shares back to residents whose properties previously held shares.
- Shut down Gage Canal as it is not practical to pressurize.
- Maximize use of Gage Canal water, per Measure C.
- Take advantage of any pressurized sections of Gage canal that could feed potential Ag customers to reduce delivery costs.
- Gage shares not being used now should remain available to the property to be used later, but while not being used the City could take the entitlement.
- Allow the City to “transfer” or “loan” a portion of their shares out to those properties needing, and able to take, Gage water for irrigation/agriculture as long as the user pays the annual water tax equivalent to the # of shares of water needed.

GFT

- Use GFT to pay for the “under-collection”, either by lowering amount of GFT from RPU to General Fund equivalent to under-collection, or removing GFT portion from WA-3 and WA-9 water rates equivalent to under collection.

- Allow Economic Development Department to issue agricultural rebate using funds from GFT to cover under collection from WA-3/WA-9.

Agriculture

- Revise and/or expand “qualifying” definition of agriculture in regards to Ag rates since Ag is not just citrus groves any more.
- Citrus may not be the future due in part to the Citrus Psyllid (HLB) pest problem.

WA-3 / WA-9

- Separate Agricultural irrigation service from residential service on WA-3/WA-9 lots, re-pipe, test to ensure no interconnection.
- Whatever Ag rate is proposed it should have with it conditions that set forth compliance requirements and inspection timeframes.

Prop R / Measure C

- Per Prop R and Measure C, make “necessary changes” to allow Gage water to be “**used for agriculture as the highest priority**” (see Section 5 of Measure C).
- Adopt policies or resolutions to allow these changes to take place so agriculture is promoted and supported.
- Transitioning WA-3 / WA-9 customers to WA-1 or WA-6 does not accomplish the goals of Prop R and Measure C.

Misc

- Add a wye on existing potable services that would allow for a separate meter to be used for irrigation purposes only.
- Downsize existing meter in order to save on monthly fees on water bill.
- Creating Business Investment Districts (BIDs) that would encompass the “agricultural” lands and properties.