



## CITY POLICY & PROGRAM SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION R AND MEASURE C

### Public Utilities Department

City Council  
October 22, 2019

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## BACKGROUND

### 1. Proposition R (1979)

- a. Preserve citrus and agricultural lands in Greenbelt
- b. Set minimum 5 acre parcel size to reduce urban sprawl

### 2. Measure C (1987)

- a. Advocated for necessary policy to reinforce elements of Prop R
- b. *"This measure shall be implemented forthwith as a matter of the highest priority to the City"*
- c. *"Insure that the Gage Canal water is reserved for agricultural use as the highest priority"*

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## FRIENDLY CONDEMNATION BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE GAGE CANAL COMPANY (1965)

1. Judgment and Stipulation
2. Secured water rights, facilities and property for "*greatest public good*" and "*necessary public use*"
3. Protected Gage shareholders thru Operating Agreement
4. Maintained deliveries of agricultural irrigation water to shareholders

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## WA-3 IRRIGATION METERED SERVICE WATER RATE (1976 - 2003)

1. Intended to support agriculture
2. Provided agricultural irrigation water at reduced cost
3. Did not affect other customer needs
4. Closed to new customers in 2003
5. In 2004, City Council rejected proposed transition of WA-3 to WA-9

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## **GAGE WATER EXCHANGE AGREEMENT (1991)**

1. Result of drought conditions
2. Provided additional 25% non-potable water into lower Gage Canal
3. Riverside Canal is source of non-potable water
4. Supplements City's potable water supply

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## **GREENBELT FLOWAGE AGREEMENT AND WA-8 GREENBELT IRRIGATION SERVICE RATE (1993)**

1. Result of requests for Gage Canal water
2. Provides option to properties without shares
3. Costs about double that of a shareholder
4. Still available to those that can receive water

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## **WA-9 GROVE PRESERVATION SERVICE WATER RATE (2003 - CURRENT)**

1. Continued support of agriculture after WA-3 closed
2. Provided agricultural irrigation water at reduced cost
3. Did not affect other customer needs
4. Primary applicability to groves in Greenbelt
5. Closed to new customers outside Greenbelt in 2009 unless larger than 5 acres and no home

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## **GrowRIVERSIDE INITIATIVE (2013)**

1. Greenbelt Committee first met in 2013
2. Expand awareness of need for locally sourced food
3. Conserve local farmland
4. Protect City's Ag heritage
5. First conference in 2014
6. Developed Food Policy Action Plan

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## **AGRICULTURAL WATER RATES TASK FORCE (2018 - 2019)**

1. Council rejected proposed rate increases to WA-3 and WA-9 in Nov. 2017 and requested formation of community led Task Force
2. Task Force developed rate proposal over 13 months
3. Final recommendations to Board/Council in May/June 2019
4. Existing WA-3 and WA-9 customers transition to new rate

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## **PROPOSED WA-12 AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WATER RATE (2019)**

1. Includes all Task Force recommendations
2. Includes staff modifications to comply with Prop 218 and facilitate implementation
3. Based on scientific principles, clear qualifying criteria, allocation methodology, audit timeframes
4. All usage above allocation at applicable rate
5. Promotes, encourages, and supports agriculture

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## CONSIDERATIONS/OPTIONS FOR ONGOING SUPPORT OF PROP R & MEASURE C

### 1. WA-12

- a. Create avocado tree crop group and factors
- b. Further refine crop factors of other groupings

### 2. WA-8

- a. Reduce transportation charge, remove pressurization req
- b. Allocate financial assistance for req'd improvements
- c. Support initiatives to connect Gage water to properties

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## CONSIDERATIONS/OPTIONS FOR ONGOING SUPPORT OF PROP R & MEASURE C

### 3. Water Rule 16

- a. Allow Irrigation Contracts for production scale Ag

### 4. Gage Canal

- a. Strategic expansion of delivery system
- b. Evaluate pros/cons of selling back shares for ag production

### 5. Develop Synergistic Partnerships

- a. Enhance communications with Gage and GrowRIVERSIDE
- b. Form ongoing Agricultural Task Force & Ag Business Development unit

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council receive, file and provide input on a presentation of information regarding City policies related to implementation of Proposition R and Measure C.