

For Immediate Release
July 8, 2011

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Water Conservation

## PRESS RELEASE

NEW WATER RATES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2011 AND WATER CONSERVATION SERVICES AVAILABLE

In May 2009 the City Council reviewed and accepted the Water Utility Financing Plan and Rate Study prepared by Municipal Financial Services. The Council adopted a series of water rates and service charges to be effective at annual intervals starting on July 1, 2009. A key requirement of the rate study was to assure that costs would be spread equitably among all customers based upon the expense of providing service. Rates were set to provide sufficient revenue to operate and maintain the water system in compliance with all regulatory requirements, and to fund a five-year capital improvement program of needed infrastructure (pipelines, facilities, and equipment) repair, retrofit, and replacement.

On July 1, 2011, the third in the series of water rate and service charge increases took effect. Customers will see the impact of the new rates in their water bills with service periods ending after July 1, 2011. Customer water bills covering the period of the rate change will include two sets of charges for water volume used and two partial service charges. This is normal and happens because water use and applicable service charges are prorated between old and new rates.

Average single family bimonthly water bills will go up approximately 6% in the Vallejo service area and 15% in the Lakes service area. This is a statistical average and individual water bills will vary based on actual water consumption. The full rate schedule is available at <a href="https://www.ci.vallejo.ca.us">www.ci.vallejo.ca.us</a> on the City's home page and at the Public Works – Water Division page.

Customers are encouraged to save water and reduce their bills by following some of the water-saving tips available at <a href="www.ci.vallejo.ca.us">www.ci.vallejo.ca.us</a> (Search "Water Conservation") or <a href="www.vallejowater.org">www.vallejowater.org</a>. The City participates in county-wide residential water use survey programs, rebates for high efficiency toilets and washing machines, turf removal and smart irrigation timer rebates. Contact Water Conservation staff at (707) 648-5299 for more information on rebates, small devices such as low-flow shower heads and aerators, water-wise landscaping ideas, and brochures on a broad range of water-related topics. Water conservation services are free to City water customers.