

**PRESENT:** Councilmembers Ortiz, G. Gonzalez Jr. & Martinez

**OTHERS:** Lara, Waters, Marquez & Zacarias

**ABSENT:** Mendoza & Ray

**FLAG SALUTE**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – None**

**IV. CONSENT CALENDAR –ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

Request Approval of the Consent Calendar Action Items (IV. A-C)

- A. Action: Approval of Minutes of the regular meeting held on March 9, 2015
- B. Action: Approval of Warrants
- C. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Approval of the March 2015 Monthly Report of Investments

**ON A MOTION BY MARTNEZ, SECOND BY GONZALEZ JR., IT WAS VOTED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Set Service Rates for Water in Accordance with Article XIID of the Constitution of the State of California

**PUBLIC HEARING**

City employee Waters presented the attached PowerPoint presentation regarding the increase of water rates. Due to the amount of citizens present, Vice-Mayor Ortiz asked that all questions be held to the end of the presentation. Vice-Mayor Ortiz stated the PowerPoint presentation would be given twice to allow the citizens the opportunity to also hear the information. The first PowerPoint presentation was done in English only. At the request of the citizens, a second PowerPoint was presented in English by City employee Waters and in Spanish by City Administrator Lara. A copy of the PowerPoint was made for everyone in attendance. Vice-Mayor Ortiz opened the public comment period.

**PUBLIC COMMENT OPENED: 7:37 PM**

Manuel Rodriguez, 321 Cypress – Mr. Rodriguez stated the following: he believes there is a misconception with the residents. He believes they don't understand that we could be worse off if we don't act now. If we don't accept this, we will pay more in the future.

Maria Rodriguez, 590 Deltha – Ms. Rodriguez stated the following: she understands what City staff is telling her today, the residents will have an increase of \$1.70 for the next 5 years so in the year 2016 our utility bill will be about \$117.45. City Administrator Lara stated it could be lower due to the sewer charges decreasing \$2.00. He stated that City staff announced at a council meeting a couple of months ago that there was a possibility of a decrease in sewer charges for the City, so in reality the

utility bill would decrease by .30 cents. Each year the City will review the sewer charges to see if any additional decreases can be made. Ms. Rodriguez stated if she stays within the allowed limit of 10,000 gallons a month, she will not see an increase beyond the \$37.00 in water charges. City Administrator Lara stated that is correct and also those fees will help for repairs to the meters and water or sewer lines for the residents. Ms. Rodriguez asked if the assistance for the repairs was only available to low income residents. City Administrator Lara stated no, it was available to everyone.

Susan Martinez, 177 Castle Rock – Ms. Martinez stated the following: residents will be allowed 10,000 gallons of water. This figure was based on a family of 4 and she has a family of 6 and does this mean she will have to pay more. City Administrator Lara stated yes that is a possibility. Ms. Martinez stated a lot of families are field workers and don't make much and will be forced to choose between feeding their family or paying a bill.

Maribel Rodriguez, 321 Cypress – Ms. Rodriguez stated the following: the City will secure a loan for \$2.363 million dollars to be paid back in 40 years. City has stated that water will increase to \$37.00 by the end of year 5. Ms. Rodriguez asked if the increase will cap at \$37.00. City Administrator Lara stated the increase will not cap at \$37.00, there may be an increase in the next 20-25 years but does not know what that increase could be. Ms. Rodriguez stated our trash and water rates are comparable to surrounding cities but we are 61% higher in sewer fees because we had to be reactive to what position we were in five years ago with sewer. We now need to be proactive with the water meters requirements. Ms. Rodriguez recommended more options for additional loans or re-finance for a lower interest rate. City Administrator Lara stated the City has looked at all options and will continue to look at different options to possibly reduce rates in the future.

Bill Lewis, 342 N. Acacia – Mr. Lewis stated the following: will the meters apply to Wells Tract, the Memorial, the Schools, local businesses and the Lighting and Landscaping Districts. City Administrator Lara stated yes. Mr. Lewis thanked staff for the sharing the rate study for him to review. Mr. Lewis stated according to the current budget report, the City currently has a 1.6 million dollar water fund reserve and by June 30, 2015 it is estimated to have a 1.8 million dollar reserve and he is concerned the water fund will turn into a cash cow like the sewer fund. As a reminder the City should only collect rates to fund costs and build a reserve. City Administrator Lara stated the 1.6 is not a reserve but operating cash. Of the 1.6 million currently in reserve, 1.2 million has been allocated for two new wells. The money cannot be considered a reserve when there are projects waiting. Mr. Lewis stating he has no problem paying for the water meters, although he feels there are some problems that should be addressed before the City moves forward. On page 6 of the rate study the information regarding the sizes of pipes may not be accurate and he asked staff to review the information for accuracy.

Leroy Perez, 314 Holly – Mr. Perez stated a lot of research has been done and wants to know if the research included those residents who are considered low-income or on a fixed income. City Administrator Lara stated the City has considered that but unfortunately loans are not set up to accommodate any particular income.

Armando Villegas, 644 Crestwood – Mr. Villegas stated the presentation did not address if businesses would pay more. City Administrator Lara stated yes. Mr. Villegas stated he currently has a smart meter installed in his house, why should he pay for a new installation. City Administrator Lara stated his meter will not be compatible to the system the City is installing. Mr. Villegas recommended hiring a part-time employee to read those meters which will not be compatible to the City's system. City Administrator Lara stated if they hire more personnel that would only create more costs to be passed on to the residents. Mr. Villegas asked if watering restrictions would remain the same or could he use his 10,000 gallons as he pleases. City Administrator Lara stated water restrictions would remain the same to prohibit the misuse of water. Mr. Villegas asked if pool owners can drain and refill their pool. City Administrator stated currently at Stage 4 that is prohibited. Mr. Villegas asked what the City is doing about the storm drain water, is there a possibility to save that water for City use. City Administrator Lara stated the City has looked into many options; currently the water is going to Bravo Lake and is not coming back to the City. Mr. Villegas stated 1040 votes were needed to protest the water increase but 1040 residents would not have fit in City Hall. This meeting should have been held in a larger building. How will the apartments be handled regarding water meters? Mr. Villegas stated the water rate usage cannot be compared to the electricity or gas rate usage. He stated if he does not use his electricity for the month, his bill will be .01. There is no base for electricity or gas usage. Mr. Villegas asked if City employees are receiving a discount for water usage. City Administrator Lara stated no.

Tranquelino Rivas, 467 Pomegranate – Mr. Rivas stated if the City believes we need to increase water rates then we should but this process should go to a vote. He stated if there is a majority that are for the increase, then it should pass but if there is no majority the City should not increase the water rates. City Administrator Lara stated that is what is happening tonight. Mr. Rivas stated this building was way too small to accommodate all who should be here voting. City Administrator Lara stated residents did not have to come to the meeting to be able to vote. Residents could have submitted a letter as their vote to protest. Mr. Rivas asked why only the home owners are allowed to vote. City Administrator Lara stated that is what the law states.

Jose Guzman, 599 Antelope – Mr. Guzman stated the increase to the water is not an issue for him. He would like for the City to replace all the water lines in the City. The City claims the water is good, but he believes the City water is bad. His kids have gotten sick after drinking City water. He believes the majority of those at the meeting tonight buy bottled water because the City water is not good. City Administrator Lara stated the water is tested and is good to drink. There may be some water lines to repair and they will be repaired. Mr. Guzman stated he knows where all the water waste is happening in the City, it is at the cemetery. The cemetery waters their property all week and water is wasted daily. The City park is also watered on non-watering days and the apartments are also does not use City water. The City parks are all on timers and only water on watering days. The apartments have been wasting a lot of water and the Chief of Police will be meeting with each manager to address this

problem. The apartments have been cited and City staff will continue to monitor their water waste.

Carlos Rodriguez, 379 S. Magnolia – Mr. Rodriguez stated he has lived in Woodlake for over 40 years and he has seen many improvements. Do we have to install water meters? City Administrator Lara stated yes, by law, we need to install the water meters. Mr. Rodriguez asked if the City could lower the sewer rates or the trash rates so the residents wouldn't feel the increase in the water rates. City Administrator Lara stated we cannot lower the trash rates but the City is looking into lowering the sewer rates.

Chuck Man, 789 N. Palm – Mr. Mann stated everyone in the community needs to do their part to save water. Every household will be allowed 10,000 gallons a month which is 120,000 gallons a year. That is 4.5 acres of water in a year. An acre can be measured as the distance from goal line to goal line on a football field, so imagine the football field being filled with 4.5 inches of water and that is what every household will be allowed in a year. Farmers are currently paying \$1500 an acre foot of water. It is very costly for the farmers and we are paying less than that for our water. For those of you who were here in the 1970's when there was a drought before, we had to do the same thing then. Mr. Mann stated he supports the water meters.

Jerry Rodriguez, 597 W. Lakeview – Mr. Rodriguez asked if any jobs would be created for the community because of this project. City Administrator Lara stated no. City employee Waters stated tax dollars will be created for Woodlake when the workers are installing the meters they will be spending money to eat and shop downtown and this will help with our local business owners. City Administrator Lara also stated there may be times where CSET may work with a contractor on the project and may hire Woodlake residents for the project. Mr. Rodriguez asked if City staff is going to do water conservation programs for residents. City Administrator Lara stated yes. Mr. Rodriguez asked if there will be penalties for excessive water use. City Administrator Lara stated yes, they will be charged a fee of .25 per 1,000 gallons after their 10,000 gallon allowance is exceeded. Mr. Rodriguez asked if the City will offer rebates to replace broken washers. City Administrator Lara stated the state will assist with the replacement of washer for cost effectiveness. Mr. Rodriguez asked what is the status regarding washing cars at home and how does it affect the Car Wash here in town. City Administrator Lara stated the City is currently at Stage 4 and car washing at home is prohibited. You may currently use the Car Wash station in town but if the City enters into Stage 5, the business owner will need to upgrade the wash station to recycle water.

Jose Gonzalez, 775 Wutchumna – Mr. Gonzalez stated he believed this process is a joke. He stated the installation of meters is mandatory so why have this meeting, he believes it is all a big joke. If the residents vote against it the City will still do what they want. The City stated the installation must happen by 2025 so why allow the residents to vote when they really have no choice. He stated City Hall was too small to hold all residents who needed to vote. City Administrator Lara stated they did not have to show up to meeting to vote. Residents had the option of mailing in or dropping off their protest for the last 45 days. Mr. Gonzalez stated the material should have been provided in Spanish so that many residents could understand. City Administrator Lara stated the notices were

provided in Spanish and the notice also stated if anyone needed assistance in Spanish to call City Hall.

Eva Quevedo, 335 W. Bravo – Ms. Quevedo stated she believes the residents do not understand that they could have submitted their vote by mail or simply dropping it off at City Hall. We must remember we are a low-income community when asking residents to pay more. If there are more apartments built in the City, will we have water for them? Will we have jobs for them?

Chris Rodriguez, 190 W. Deltha – Mr. Rodriguez stated most of the people who live here predominately speak Spanish and cannot read material that is sent to them. He believes City staff did this process because we knew what the outcome would be. The City should have conducted a real vote and given the residents the opportunity to voice their opinion. Since the material was only sent out in English, this was not a fair process. He also wanted to know if the apartments would also have an increase in water fees. City Administrator Lara stated yes. Mr. Rodriguez stated the City was unfair and did not allow for a true vote of the increase. This was not an honest vote and City staff did not allow a voice from every resident. The utility bill is currently \$115.00 a month and is probably the highest in the County and yet the City wants to still increase it more.

Juana Delgado, 736 Barouni – Ms. Delgado stated most of the residents are field workers and will not be able to pay the increase. She understands this is law but what other options do they have, especially when they only work 6 months out of the year.

Maribel Rodriguez, 321 Cypress – Ms. Rodriguez asked if she could repeat her comments in Spanish. Ms. Rodriguez stated she understands this increase is hard to accept but it is needed. The City was given a loan and a grant for this project. If we delay this project we will lose the grant and the residents will suffer a high cost in the future. This is what happened 5 years ago with the sewer plant, the City was not proactive and the cost to the residents was high. The City does not want to be in the same situation with the requirements to install water meters. She stated it is the choice of the residents to protest the increase but it would only mean we pay more in the future. She has asked City staff to continue to look for more options to pay for this project and also for programs to assist residents in difficult times.

492 N. Magnolia – Will the apartments be charged more for their water use? City Administrator stated yes.

**PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED 8:26 PM**

Vice-Mayor Ortiz adjourned the meeting to allow City Clerk Zacarias the time to count the protest letters submitted.

Meeting Adjourned 8:26 PM

Meeting Reconvened 8:41 PM

Vice-Mayor Ortiz asked City Clerk Zacarias for the count of the protest letters submitted. City Clerk Zacarias reported a total of 48 protest letters submitted including those sent through the mail or dropped off at City Hall.

City employee Waters stated a correction had been made to the resolution to clarify the language.

**ON A MOTION BY MARTINEZ, SECOND BY GONZALEZ JR., IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND SET**

**SERVICE RATES FOR WATER IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE XIII OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- B. Action: Adoption of Resolution: Award the Water Meter Project Design and Engineering to the Best Qualified Firm Quad Knopf, Inc. City Employee Waters reported the following: the City of Woodlake convened a panel to interview two firms that applied to provide Water meter Project Design and Engineering service. The following three firms submitted a proposal and two firms were interviewed:

Quad Knopf, Inc.

4Creeks, Inc.

Central Valley Engineering and Surveying

All interviewed firms were qualified and capable of providing Water Meter Project Design and Engineering services for the City. Based on the application and interview process, the panel determined that Quad Knopf, Inc. was the most qualified firm. Councilmember Gonzalez Jr. asked why only two firms were interviewed and not all three. City Employee Waters stated they selected the two most qualified.

**ON A MOTION BY GONZALEZ JR, SECOND BY MARTINEZ IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND AWARD THE WATER METER PROJECT DESIGN AND ENGINEERING TO THE BEST QUALIFIED FIRM QUAD KNOPF, INC. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- C. Information: Adoption of Resolution: Waive 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading and Adopt an Ordinance Amending Section 13.12.030 of the Municipal Code of the City of Woodlake, Updating Water Conservation Stages and Restriction on Use of Potable Water, To Promote Conservation

City employee Waters reported the following: the amendment to the City's Water ordinance adds an additional water conservation stage (Stage 5) and introduces a system where lawn watering day are reduced or increased based on the month. City Administrator Lara stated if the City were to move into Stage 5, the car wash station would not be in compliance but City staff is working with the owner to ensure he will be in compliance.

**ON A MOTION BY GONZALEZ JR., SECOND BY MARTNEZ IT WAS VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND WAIVE THE 2<sup>ND</sup> READING AND ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 13.12.030 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF WOODLAKE, UPDATING WATER CONSERVATION STAGES AND RESTRICTION ON USE OF POTABLE WATER, TO PROMOTE CONSERVATION. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Information: Items from Staff

City Administrator Lara – reported he will have information to report at the next scheduled meeting regarding state water regulations and any available programs for the City.

Councilmember Ortiz – thanked everyone for their comments and thanked staff for all information provided.

Councilmember Martinez – thanked everyone for their comments and opinions.

Councilmember Gonzalez Jr. – thanked everyone for attending and sharing their comments and opinions.

C. Request from Council Members for Future Agenda Items

VII. CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Pursuant to subdivision (b) of Government Code Section 54956.9

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

As provided in the Ralph M. Brown Act, Government Code sections 54950 et seq., the Governing Board may meet in closed session with members of its staff and its attorneys. These sessions are not open to the public and may not be attended by members of the public. The matters the Council will meet on in closed session are identified below or are those matters appropriately identified in open session as requiring immediate attention and arising after the posting of the agenda. Any public reports of action taken in the closed session will be made in accordance with Government Code sections 54957.1

MEETING MOVED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 8:51 PM

MEETING RECONVENED AT 9:15 PM

Vice-Mayor Ortiz reported there was nothing to report and no action was taken.

VIII. ADJOURN

The next scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Monday, April 27, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at City Council Chambers located at 350 North Valencia Boulevard, Woodlake, CA 93286.

City Council:

Rudy Mendoza - Mayor

Frances Ortiz - Vice Mayor

Chuck Ray - Councilmember

Greg Gonzalez Jr. - Councilmember

Jose L. Martinez - Councilmember

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Irene Zacarias

City Clerk

# City of Woodlake Water System Project

April 13, 2015

## What is the Water System Project?

- \* The water system project will add water meters city-wide, sand separators, chlorinators, line replacements and a new SCADA system that will track individual usage of water
- \* The water meters would be installed and operational by July 1, 2016

## Why is the City installing water meters?

- \* California is requiring all cities to be on water meters by 2025 (AB 2572) and California's Water Conservation Plan recommends passing new legislation moving that date to 2020
- \* The City is required to track and reduce water use by 25%. Currently the City is able to track well production of water but cannot track water usage
- \* This makes it impossible for the City to know where water losses are occurring and who is using what quantities

## How has the City prepared for the water system upgrades?

- \* Approximately two years ago the City began looking for funding sources to update the current water system
- \* The City had a Preliminary Engineering Report performed and a leak detection study that identified potential problems with the current system
- \* The City then secured a \$2.363 million dollar loan from USDA and received a \$1.637 million grant from USDA to upgrade the current water system

## Terms of the loan and grant

- \* In order to receive the \$2.363 million loan at an interest rate of 3.25% for 40 years, USDA requires the City to collect the necessary revenues to repay the loan, maintain the system, and save for future upgrades
  - \* This led to the City having to increase current rates
- \* The City will only receive the grant if proper funding to deliver the entire project is identified

## What are the new water rates and how did the City determine the rate?

- \* A rate study was conducted to determine what the new water rates should be
- \* The rate study was performed by CRWA and approved by USDA
- \* Base rates are based on the size of meter connection
- \* The 2020 residential rates are as follows:
  - \* \$37 base rate for residential customers, this rate includes 10,000 gallons of water
  - \* After the first 10,000 gallons, residents will pay a fee for additional water used:
 

* 10,001 – 20,000 gallons	= \$0.25 per 1,000 gallons
* 20,001 – 30,000 gallons	= \$0.26 per 1,000 gallons
* 30,001 – 40,000 gallons	= \$0.27 per 1,000 gallons
* 40,001 +	= \$0.28 per 1,000 gallons

## What will my base rate be in the future?

- \* The current rate is \$28.50
- \* The City must charge \$37.00 base rate by 2020 to meet USDA requirements
- \* In order to do this, the city will increase the base rate price by \$1.70 annually for 5 years
  - \* Current Rate = \$28.50
  - \* Year 1 Increase (July 1, 2016) + \$1.70 = \$30.20
  - \* Year 2 Increase (July 1, 2017) + \$1.70 = \$31.90
  - \* Year 3 Increase (July 1, 2018) + \$1.70 = \$33.60
  - \* Year 4 Increase (July 1, 2019) + \$1.70 = \$35.30
  - \* Year 5 Increase (July 1, 2020) + \$1.70 = \$37.00

## Bill Example for the Year 2020

- \* If a resident uses 9,000 gallons in one month, their bill will be \$37.00, because they used less than 10,000 gallons and are only subject to the base fee
- \* If a resident uses 16,000 gallons they will pay \$38.50, because they will be subject to the \$37.00 base rate PLUS \$0.25 per 1,000 gallons
  - \* In this case the resident used 6,000 gallons above the base rate water allocation (10,000 gallons), and will be charged for the additional 6,000 gallons at \$0.25 per 1,000 ( $6 \times \$0.25 = \$1.50$ ) for a total of \$38.50

## Why \$37 for residential users?

- \* \$37 Total Base Rate is necessary to cover all operational costs , loans, and reserves associated with the water system
- \* Estimated annual expenses:
  - \* \$848,108.20
  - \*  $(\$848,108.20 / 1930 \text{ customers}) / 12 \text{ Months} = \text{Per Customer Expense}$
  - \* Per Customer Expense = \$36.62

## Rates in Neighboring Cities if 10,000 gallons of water used July 1, 2016

- \* Residential rates:
  - \* City of Woodlake \$30.20
  - \* City of Exeter \$20.65- pending review of current rates
  - \* City of Lindsay \$36.71
  - \* City of Visalia \$29.21
  - \* City of Farmersville \$15.61 – City has begun water rate study. Also looking to add water meters city-wide.

## How does the City notify residents about the cost increase?

- \* The City is required to conduct a Proposition 218 process, which requires residents to be notified of the cost increase and give them the opportunity to protest the rate increase
- \* A public hearing date is set (today)
- \* Notice of the public hearing and fee increase is sent at least 45 days prior to the hearing
- \* City holds the public hearing
- \* City counts written votes protesting the rate increase
- \* If a majority of the property owners submit a protest prior to the close of the public hearing the rate may not be increased
- \* If a majority does not submit a protest, the rate may be increased



**PROPOSITION 218**  
Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Water Fee Increase

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED INCREASE TO WATER SERVICE CHARGES

**Public Hearing Information**  
**DATE:** April 13, 2015  
**TIME:** 6:30 PM  
**LOCATION:** Woodlake City Hall, 350 N. Valencia Blvd., Woodlake, CA 93286

The City of Woodlake will hold a public hearing to consider an increase to water service charges. The purpose of the hearing is to consider oral testimony and written protests against the proposed changes to the rates for water to the parcel for which you are shown as a property owner of record or a tenant directly responsible for the payment of water services.

**WHY IS A RATE INCREASE NEEDED?**

The City makes every effort to provide its customers with water in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible. The City hired a consultant to examine current and projected water system revenue needs. The consultant's analysis demonstrates a need to raise water rates. The increase in water rates is intended to fund the cost of installing water meters and maintaining the City's water system for all customers.

Rates need to be raised to: (1) fund the cost of installing and maintaining water meters; (2) put aside money for future water supply projects; (3) provide timely maintenance of existing facilities, including water pumps and water towers; (4) build a reservoir for emergencies; to address higher than estimated capital costs, and costs of possible future regulations as water quality standards become more stringent; and (5) fund the cost of installing chlorination units and a sand separator.



## REMINDER

### PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED INCREASE TO WATER SERVICE CHARGES

*Public Hearing Information*

**DATE:** April 13, 2015

**TIME:** 6:30 PM

**LOCATION:** Woodlake City Hall, 350 N. Valencia Blvd., Woodlake, CA 93286

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## RECORDATORIO

### AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA SOBRE AUMENTO PROPUESTO A LA TARIFA DE SERVICIOS DE AGUA

*Información de Audiencia Pública*

**FECHA:** 13 de abril 2015

**HORA:** 6:30 p.m.

**UBICACIÓN:** Woodlake City Hall, 350 N. Valencia Blvd., Woodlake, CA 93286

La Ciudad de Woodlake tendrá una audiencia pública para considerar un aumento a la tarifa de servicios de agua. El propósito de la audiencia es para considerar testimonios oral y protestas escritas contra los cambios propuestos a la tarifa de agua sobre la parcela de cual se muestra a usted como un dueño de la propiedad o un inquilino directamente responsable del pago de los servicios de agua.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT /  
PARA MAS INFORMACIÓN, POR FAVOR CONTACTE A  
RAMON LARA OR JASON WATERS AT 559-564-8055.**

# Prop 218 Process

- \* Property owners have the opportunity to formally protest the rate increase
- \* If a majority of property owners protest (1,040 protests), the rate increase will not happen
  - \* There are 2,039 eligible parcels in the City of Woodlake (per County Recorder's Office)
- \* Property owners have until the end of the public hearing to submit a formal protest
- \* If a majority of voters do not protest, the new rates can be approved

## Public Input

- \* The City has received multiple phone calls and office visits from residents asking questions regarding the water project and rate increase
- \* In general residents have understood why the project and rate increase is necessary and have expressed the following concerns:
  - \* What is the City doing to conserve water?
  - \* Did the City look at grants to minimize cost to residents?
  - \* What can I do to conserve water?
  - \* How will the drought impact Woodlake residents?

## Options

- \* 1. A majority of property owners protest: The rate increase would not take place, the City would lose \$1.637 million in grant funding, and the City would have to determine how to continue to pay for the required water meters and maintain the City's water system.
- \* 2. A majority do not protest: The rate increase would take place beginning in July 1, 2016 and the City would receive \$1.637 million in grant funding to help pay for the water meters.
- \* 3. City takes no action: This would put the City at the mercy of the State for penalties and fines as it will not meet State operating requirements.

## Public Hearing Process

- Following this slide, Council will open up for public hearing regarding the rate increase
- Residents have the opportunity to give comments regarding the rate increase. Each individual resident will be given 3 minutes. No delegation of public comment time will be allowed.
- \* Any formal protests must be submitted in writing by the end of the hearing
- \* Protests must have the following:
  - \* A Written Protest
  - \* Name of Property Owner
  - \* Address or APN of the Property Owner
  - \* Signature of Property Owner
- Following the Public Hearing, the City Clerk will count the protests to determine if they constitute a majority of property owners

# PUBLIC HEARING