



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAYOR JERRY SANDERS
FACT SHEET

**CITY WILL NOT RAISE WATER RATES ON SAN DIEGANS
DESPITE LATEST RATE HIKE BY WHOLESALERS**

Public Utilities Department will absorb additional \$8.75 million cost

The city will not raise water rates next fiscal year even though the city's water wholesaler voted today to increase the price of water by more than seven percent, Mayor Jerry Sanders announced today. The city will be forced to pay an additional \$8.75 million in wholesale water costs next fiscal year as a result of today's vote by the San Diego County Water Authority, whose rates were hiked by the Metropolitan Water District in Los Angeles.

"The cost of water is an enormous concern for everyone in this city, from the families trying to keep their households solvent to the businesses struggling through the worst economy since the 1930s," the mayor said. "We are doing everything in our power to postpone any future water-rate increases as long as possible."

To prevent any rate increases for Fiscal Year 2012, the city's Public Utilities Department is taking a variety of steps to pay for the increased price of its wholesaler water. These measures include everything from maximizing the use of local water supplies to keeping vacant jobs open as long as possible. San Diego reservoirs are higher than normal because of the wet winter and cool spring, meaning the city has the option of buying less water from its wholesalers.

"The rising cost of water is a major factor in why San Diegans' water bills are so high," the mayor said. "Time and again, the Los Angeles wholesaler increases the price that it charges the San Diego County Water Authority, which has little choice but to pass those price hikes along to the city of San Diego. We fully support the County Water Authority in its lawsuit against the Metropolitan Water District in Los Angeles, which has been artificially inflating the rates that it charges the entire San Diego region."

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