

Implementing Efficiencies to Lower Burden on Ratepayers

Effective January 2012, the City's wholesale water costs went up more than 7% and, again in January 2013, the rate will increase by 9.6%. However, **for the past two consecutive years, the city has been able to avoid water rate increases to our customers** due to the efficiencies and savings created by the Public Utilities Department. Continuous improvements by the Public Utilities Department that have created savings for our ratepayers include:

- **Consolidation & Streamlining of Operations**—*16% overall reduction in Department workforce (more than 300 positions)*
- **Water Bond Refinancing Savings**—*\$48.7M over 18-20 years*
- **Successful Grant Writing**—*More than \$50 million obtained for water infrastructure projects*
- **Maximization of local water use in City reservoirs combined with conservation efforts**—*\$38 million savings*
- **Completed infrastructure projects are finishing under budget**—*Savings placed in reserve for future rate relief*

In October 2012 the City received the highly coveted Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies Platinum Award for Utility Excellence due to our continual improvement and optimizing efficiencies. The City was the only California water agency to receive this award and one of only 14 nationally.

