



LONG BEACH WATER DEPARTMENT

The Standard in Water Conservation &
Environmental Stewardship

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Imported Water Rates Increasing 14%

LOS ANGELES, CA – Today, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California approved a 9.8 percent increase in the district’s base wholesale water rate, as well as a special surcharge to purchase additional supplies. Those supplies are needed to help compensate for a loss of up to 30 percent of the Southland’s supplies from Northern California because of court-imposed pumping restrictions due to endangered species in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta on top of a long-term drought on the Colorado River. Imported water from the Metropolitan Water District is the Long Beach Water Department’s largest budget expenditure each year.

“Over the next few years, we must continue to work creatively with our 26 member public agencies to manage our supply challenges as well as the rising cost of energy, financing capital improvements and operating and maintaining our water distribution system,” said Metropolitan board Chairman Timothy F. Brick. “These costs include the need to acquire increasingly costly water transfers and more aggressive water conservation.”

Along with the increase in the district’s base rate, the board approved a \$25-per-acre-foot surcharge that would fund purchases of up to 200,000 acre-feet of additional supplies. Purchases on the water transfer market are necessary to make up for reductions in State Water Project deliveries from the Delta due to a federal court order addressing declining populations of the threatened Delta smelt. (An acre-foot is nearly 326,000 gallons, about the amount of water used by two typical Southland families in and around their homes in a year.)

The rate adjustment and supply surcharge amounts to a 14.3 percent overall increase in the cost of Metropolitan’s wholesale supplies to the district’s public agencies. The effect on Southland consumers will depend on how much of Metropolitan’s imported water is purchased by their local water agency to augment supplies, such as groundwater. For the average household, the total rate increase equates to about \$1.50 per month., which is what is expected for customers of the Long Beach Water Department.

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