

District scraps proposed water, sewer rate plan

Jurupa Community Services directors get an earful from customers at the emotional meeting

BY SANDRA STOKLEY
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Directors of the Jurupa Community Services District voted Monday night to scrap a proposed water and sewer restructuring plan that called for five years of rate increases.

The 5-0 decision came after an emotional 90-minute meeting at which customers took turns either blasting the district for not holding the line on expenses or pleaded with directors to vote down the plan.

Directors were to have voted on the new rate structure on Nov. 14.

Board president Jane Anderson said after the meeting that she was swayed not just by the comments at Monday's meeting, but by what she had heard at the outreach meetings the district has been holding to explain the new structure to ratepayers.

"I already understood the problem of people being out of work and struggling," Anderson said. "That's what is killing everybody."

The board's decision was greeted with applause and cheers.

Before the vote, customers

shared their tales of high water bills that were expected to soar under the new rate structure.

Rae Furlong said her September bill was about \$127. Under the new structure she would pay \$400.

"I can't afford that," Furlong said.

The new rate system — known commonly as a water budget rate structure — that was being proposed by Jurupa district officials assigned each household a monthly water budget for indoor and outdoor use.

Adjustments in that water budget were allowed for family size, lot size, medical needs and livestock such as horses or sheep.

Residents who exceeded their budgeted amount would have seen their per-unit water cost more than double under the proposed four-tier system.

Although some residents expressed misgivings about providing personal information to the water agency to get an adjustment to their water budget, it was the five straight years of increases to water and sewer rates that infuriated customers.

At a series of outreach meetings in Eastvale and Jurupa Valley, residents, particularly senior citizens, have expressed outrage that the district is proposing to raise rates during a time of economic distress.

Norco college hosts forums to select its next president

Five finalists, including the interim president, will be available to answer questions from the public

BY LESLIE PARRILLA
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The community will get a chance to weigh in on selecting the second president of Norco College at a series of forums featuring the five final candidates.

Former Norco College President Brenda Davis left the position open when she retired June 30 after leading the campus since 1993. She was temporarily replaced by Interim President Debbie DiThomas, who is one of the finalists for the position.

The search to replace Davis began during the summer after the college hired an executive search firm and assembled a search committee that includes two residents from Corona and Norco.

A final selection is anticipated by January, said college spokeswoman Linda Reifschneider.

Norco College is part of the Riverside Community College District and serves roughly 9,500 students, most-

ly from Corona, Norco and Eastvale.

It was accredited in 2010 and established as a campus in 1992.

It has growing programs in logistics, technology, engineering, and energy sustainability and is undergoing a campus expansion.

"Norco is still a relatively young college but a strong college with a focus in liberal arts and sciences and has a strong tie with local industry," said district spokesman Jim Parsons. "It's a good opportunity and great location in terms of being in the transportation and logistics corridor in the Inland Empire."

Challenges a new president would face include a shrinking state budget and decline in other funding, issues faced by community colleges throughout California.

A search committee is looking for someone who is fiscally adept and who can forge relationships and partnerships with local businesses to advance the college's career training programs.

The search committee is made up of 10 college staff members, faculty, students and community residents — George Beloz of the Greater Corona Hispanic Chamber of

PRESIDENT CANDIDATE FORUMS

TUESDAY: Christopher Villa, 12:50 p.m. — 1:50 p.m., Center for Student Success, Room 217

NOV. 14: Paul Parnell, 12:50 p.m. — 1:50 p.m., Center for Student Success, Room 217

NOV. 17: Ralph Ford, 12:50 p.m. — 1:50 p.m., Little Theater, Theater 101

NOV. 28: Larry Buckley, 12:50 p.m. — 1:50 p.m., Center for Student Success, room 217

DEC. 1: Debbie DiThomas, 12:50 p.m. — 1:50 p.m., Little Theater, theater 101

PARKING: Parking Lot D



Christopher Villa



Paul Parnell



Ralph Ford



Larry Buckley



Debbie DiThomas

Ralph Ford, vice president of student affairs at Union County College in Cranford, N.J.; and Larry Buckley, vice president

of instruction at San Bernardino Valley College.

A restriction was lifted that prohibits interim presidents from applying for the permanent position, allowing DiThomas to apply.

The committee believed DiThomas was a strong candidate and should be considered.

IN BRIEF

CONTINUED FROM A3

Wednesday behind a pickup in Riverside is improving, Riverside County Animal Services stated.

The agency will sponsor an essay contest to determine who will adopt the dog, it was reported Monday in a news release.

Animal Services officials said interested adopters could submit an essay — expressing their reasons for

wanting the dog and what kind of home it will be offered via email to shelterinfo@rivcocha.org or faxed to 951-358-7300 by 6 p.m. Wednesday. Animal Services staff members will pick an adopting family by Thursday.

Anyone with information about who dragged the dog is asked to call 951-358-7356.

—STEVEN BARRIE
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SETTING IT STRAIGHT

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1963
Volunteers plan duties for hospital wing.

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and service that has lifted patients' spirits and raised our quality of care. Whether it was selling homemade jams or handcrafted quilts, or through other community efforts, our volunteers have raised donations to support the hospital.

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1975
Volunteer assists a patient.



2002
Auxiliary Information Desk Representatives

Each year, RCH volunteers bring their passion and commitment through our doors and into our patients' hearts helping us build a healthier future.

If you would like to volunteer at Redlands Community Hospital, please call the Volunteer Office at (909) 335-5526.

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