District scraps proposed water, sewer rate plan

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

BY SANDRA STOKLEY STAFF WRITER

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 in-

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

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 ratepay-

"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

Before the vote, customers economic distress.

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 perunit 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 raise rates during a time of

the district is proposing to

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THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE PE-com

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

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 Nor-

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, mostly from Corona, Norco and Eastvale.

It was accredited in 2010 and established as a campus

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

Commerce and Bill Luebke, technical director of Naval Surface Warfare Center, Corona in Norco.

Last month, the committee interviewed nine candidates from across the country before deciding on five individuals. They are DiThomas, the interim president; Christopher Villa, vice president for student affairs at Fresno City College; Paul Parnell, vice president for academic didate and should be considaffairs at Rio Hondo College; ered.



Christopher



Parnell



Larry **Buckley**



Debbie



DiThomas Larry Buckley, vice president of instruction at San Bernar-

dino 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 can-

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 Thurs-

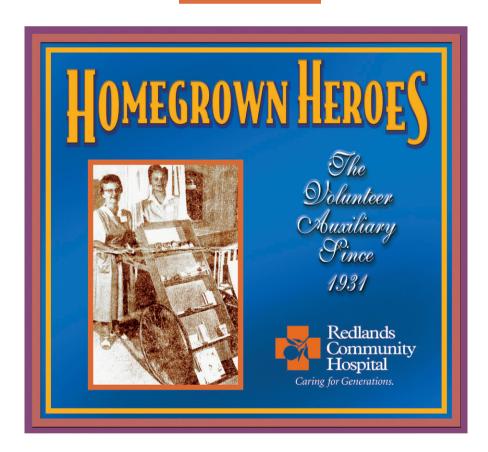
Anyone with information about who dragged the dog is asked to call 951-358-7356.

-STEVEN BARRIE

SETTING IT STRAIGHT

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