



BELLA VISTA WATER DISTRICT

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FACT SHEET – WATER TREATMENT DEBT SERVICE CHARGE

Beginning January 1, 2004, District customers were assessed a bimonthly water treatment improvement fee of \$7.00. This fee was to be used to repay an approximately \$10 million loan from the California Department of Water Resources to make improvements to our Wintu Pump Station and Water Treatment Plant. This loan is necessary to assure better water supply reliability and better quality water for our users. The loan, which carries a low 2.34% interest rate, will be repaid over 20 years. Construction of the improvements began during the summer of 2004 and took over two years to complete.

In March 1, 2005, the \$7.00 bimonthly fee was increased to \$14.00 to meet the loan payments.

These improvements were mandated by the California Department of Public Health to meet the new, more stringent federal requirements for drinking water. The improvements at the water treatment plant included six additional filters to slow the rate of flow through the filter media, additional piping to allow greater time for the chlorine to make contact with the water, and additional piping and valving to add “filter to waste” immediately after a backwash. This last feature will allow the filter media to do a better job of filtering small particles out of the water before the water is delivered into the distribution system.

Improvements at the Wintu Pumping Plant on the Sacramento River include a 2.2 megawatt emergency generator to ensure that water can continue to be delivered to the District’s customers in the event of a power outage. In addition, two 600 hp variable-speed pumps were installed in order to prevent disturbing the filters during starts and stops, as well as, improvements to the chlorination system.

This fee is offset with a non-domestic use (NDU) credit in instances where the use is solely for agricultural irrigation and there is no domestic use on the property whatsoever.