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March 28, 2022

Belforest Water Customers:

During our regularly scheduled Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors voted to increase our water rates effective July 1st, 2022. We have seen unprecedented growth in our area, but this increase is not due to more customers living in our area. This water rate increase is a reaction to the increased cost of producing, treating and providing water to our constituents.

Belforest Water System customers have not had a rate adjustment since 2016. In that time, we have seen material, labor, and supply chain costs increase. We have worked diligently to manage our low water rates by being good stewards of our financial resources and keeping our operations streamlined and efficient. However, this economic practice can not overcome global increases that have been sustained over the last several years. **As our goal is to provide pure, abundant water; we do not waver from that mission.**

We understand that a great number of our customers are on fixed income. To that end, we have worked to keep our minimum charge the same. You will see that for the first 2,000 gallons of water used, the rate remains \$13.75.

Belforest Water System Water Rates, effective July 1, 2022

Residential		Commercial	
Gallons	Rate	Gallons	Rate
Base customer charge	\$13.75	Base customer charge	\$28.00
0-2999 Gallons	Included in base charge	0-5999 Gallons	Included in base charge
3000-4999 Gallons	\$5.50 per 1000 gallons + base	6000-10999 Gallons	\$5.75 per 1000 gallons + base
5000-10999 Gallons	\$5.75 per 1000 gallons + base	11000-14999 Gallons	\$6.00 per 1000 gallons + base
11000-14999 Gallons	\$6.00 per 1000 gallons + base	15000+ Gallons	\$6.10 per 1000 gallons + base
15000+ Gallons	\$6.10 per 1000 gallons + base		

Water rate formulas are based on cumulative usage.

For instance, a customer with 4,000 gallons of water usage will be billed \$13.75 for first 2,000 gallons and charged \$5.50/1,000 for the remaining 2,000 gallons; for a total bill of \$24.75. Similarly, a customer using 12,000 gallons of water will be charged \$13.75 for 2,000 gallons and \$6.00/1,000 for the remainder 10,000 gallons for a total bill of \$73.75. **A customer using 2,000 gallons of water will be charged \$13.75 with new rates, same as old rates.**

To address growth, Belforest Water System Board of Directors have increased fees that developers pay in our area to add homes to the water system. In response to that additional burden, those fees are paying for additional facilities that are currently in design and construction as we speak. These projects include a new production facility at the Belforest K-6 School and a new water treatment plant at the site of our tank on Larry Street Rd. There are multiple linear projects in design which creates redundancy in the system to provide water to customers from more than one direction to reduce the interruption of water service during line breaks. **Additional infrastructure is funded through developer's fees, not increased water rates.** Over \$8 million dollars of infrastructure is expected over the next three years.

In your service,

Belforest Water System Board of Directors and Staff