



Rate Increases Strengthen Water Savings (Booth 17) (/initiative/4Wb1/rate-increases-strengthen-water-savings-booth-17)

With rationing, Santa Cruz water users cut their summer use from 10 million gallons a day to 7.5 million. Use may rebound if the drought ends. But water rates increased this month by 15%, 61% over the next five years. So how much of that 3-million-gallon daily savings will rate increases maintain? Research cited here shows the rate increase will save 4 million gallons a day (reducing demand from 10 mgd to 6 mgd). During the drier months, April –October, we'll save 856 million gallons a year, at zero additional cost, because no new projects must be funded.

Submitted by Sue Holt

Comments

Peggy Kenny 2w, 2d ago

CON

Using higher rates to impact demand simply allows those with more money to use what they like, and punishes the poor. Bad policy.

Christine Y Kirven 1w, 5d ago

PRO

All this seems great, but the city council passed rate increases that do not do it the most equitably. Maybe next council.