

# VANDENBERG VILLAGE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **Vandenberg Village CSD to Adopt Budget, No Rate Increases**

Vandenberg Village, CA, March 31, 2016. The Board of Directors for Vandenberg Village Community Services District (VVCSD) has scheduled a public hearing to consider adopting a \$4.4 million Fiscal Year 2016-17 water and wastewater operating budget at its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 5, at 7:00 p.m. No rate increases are proposed this year.

Decreased water consumption due to the drought is forcing water agencies across the state to increase rates to cover their fixed costs. "Even though we're using significantly less water here in Vandenberg Village, we don't have to increase rates this year," according to board president Bob Wyckoff. "We approved modest rate increases in previous years, we saved money in reserves, and we generate more revenue from fixed service charges than volume charges."

Three groundwater wells in the Lompoc Uplands aquifer supply water to the village. The six major costs involved in treating and delivering drinking water to homes are people (employees), pumps, pipes, power, chemicals, and regulatory compliance. Only two categories—power and chemicals—vary with water use.

Vandenberg Village residents cut their water use by 36 percent in 2015 compared to 2013, exceeding Governor Brown's call for small public water systems like Vandenberg Village to achieve a 25-percent reduction. The district's Operations & Maintenance Manager, Mike Garner, reported that the district pumped a record low 1,173 acre-feet of water in 2015. The previous record was 1,181 acre-feet in 1983, an unusually wet, El Niño year when there were 2,000 fewer people living in the village.

At Tuesday's meeting, the Board will also consider approving a memorandum of understanding with the Burton Mesa Trail Users, a group of local hikers and mountain bikers. The group has volunteered to help the district maintain three recreational trails on a 123-acre piece of undeveloped land that VVCSD acquired last year.

VVCSD is an independent special district that provides water and wastewater services to a community of 7,000 people in northern Santa Barbara County. It is governed by a five-member, elected board of directors.

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