

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING NEW RATES**

The City of Santa Paula will be applying new water and sewer rates beginning October 1, 2009 to all residential/ commercial water and sewer service customers. These increases in rates will be included in the October billing, which will be mailed in early November 2009.

### ***WHY DOES THE CITY NEED TO RAISE RATES?***

The additional funds generated from these new rates will support upgrades and improvements to the City's aging water and sewer infrastructure. In addition, the rate increase will help support the rising cost of water and energy needed to provide these critical services to our community.

### ***HOW ARE WATER AND SEWER BILLS CALCULATED?***

Water bills include both a minimum monthly service charge and a separate charge based on the customer's water consumption. All sewer bills include a minimum monthly service charge. In addition, a separate charge based on the water consumption is added to sewer bills for commercial customers only. If you have any questions on the new water and sewer rates, please contact the City's Finance Department at 933-4211.

### ***WATER CONSERVATION HELPS SAVED WATER AND MONEY***

Continual drought conditions and the increasing demand for water have made water scarcity a critical issue throughout California. Water conservation efforts are needed, and could become mandatory, in order to save our water resources. By doing your part to help save water, you help ensure Santa Paula's water supply in the future, while also reducing your monthly water and sewer bills.

According to California's Water Conservation Resource Agency, the average Californian uses 192 gallons of water per day. Inside the home, activities like bathing, cleaning, and flushing toilets (typically up to 32% alone) use more than half of all water used inside the home. However, typically at least 50% of the water use in a single-family home goes to the outside landscape or lawn.

The City of Santa Paula is doing its best to conserve water in its daily operations and encourages all residents to learn how they can lessen the impact of California's water shortage by implementing a few water conservation ideas in their homes. For more information on water conservation, and money saving rebates please visit [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com), [www.saveourh2o.org](http://www.saveourh2o.org), and [www.drinktap.org](http://www.drinktap.org).