

Goal: To create a plan for a sustainable water system

Options:

Conservation - This is the easiest option. It will buy time while work on a long-term solution can be pursued.

New Water Supply - If we accept the premise that climate change will result in less water falling in the northwest, Yachats needs to look beyond our immediate area for additional water.

This discussion focuses on conservation.

3% of the city's utility accounts consume 48% of the water sold while only contributing 29.5% to the base rate. This rate inequity has been a long-term issue in Yachats. There are two problems that perpetuate this imbalance. To understand the situation, additional background information is needed.

The water / sewer rate structure has two components. The variable rate is based on water consumption. Currently the base rate is based on the meter size. The two problems are a base rate using meter size leaves no option for an incentive to encourage conservation. The second problem is the consultant hired to work on the rate study didn't understand that the base rate at the time was predicated on a single family consumption of 6,400 cu. ft. of water while 71.5% users use 200 cu. ft. or less per month.

When the rate study was discussed in 2005, the Public Works commission recommended starting with a high Yachats Equivalent Unit (YEU) and gradually dropping it down over a series of years. The gradual reduction was never done leaving the existing 2005 rate inequity in place.

Experience has taught us the single greatest motivator for conservation is what people have to pay for water.

2005-06 water rate discussion documents:

Council approved YEU base rate - <https://yachatsoregon2.org/Documents/Download/09-14-06 - City Council Minutes.pdf>

Public Works & Streets commission rate base rate discussion - <https://yachatsoregon2.org/Documents/Download/11-01-05PWS.pdf>

Council / Commission joint meeting - https://yachatsoregon2.org/Documents/Download/10-17-05_Special_Joint_Meeting_City_Council_and_PWS.pdf

Public Works & Street commission rate base discussion - <https://yachatsoregon2.org/Documents/Download/08-02-05PWS.pdf>

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