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NEWS RELEASE

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WATER DISTRICT USES RATE REBATE TO OFFSET FUTURE INCREASES

Vista Irrigation District uses rebate to offset Water Authority rate increases.

Vista, CA—

Vista Irrigation District board of directors voted to use \$1.57 million received from the San Diego County Water Authority (Water Authority) as part of a legal settlement with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) to offset the financial impact of Water Authority rate increases over the next five years.

The Water Authority recently received a \$44.4 million rebate from Metropolitan as a result of a decade-long rate litigation between the agencies. The Water Authority sued Metropolitan for overcharges on imported water and won on several critical issues in the cases covering charges from 2011 to 2014. In February 2021, the Water Authority announced a plan to distribute the rebate to its 24 member agencies. The district's pro-rata share of the rebate is \$1,571,006.

To minimize the impact of future Water Authority water rate increases, the district will use equal increments of about \$314,000 per year over the next five years to offset Water Authority rate increases, reducing the amount of the pass-through increase, which directly benefits our customers.

“Reducing the impacts of regional rate pressures is important to the district,” said board President Patrick Sanchez. “We believe using the rebate to offset future increases is the best thing we can do to provide the maximum benefit to our ratepayers.”

Applying the rebate to offset future increases is in line with the district's efforts to minimize rate increase impacts to our customers. The district's board of directors also voted not to increase its water service charge in 2020 in an effort to support its customers facing financial challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vista Irrigation District is a public agency governed by an elected five-member board. The district provides water service to more than 135,000 people in the city of Vista, and portions of San Marcos, Escondido, Oceanside, and unincorporated areas of the county of San Diego.

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