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# PRESS RELEASE

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July 11, 2018

## COUNCIL APPROVES RELEASE OF 218 NOTICES FOR THE WRF PROJECT

Morro Bay, CA – At its July 10 meeting, the Morro Bay City Council voted unanimously to initiate the Proposition 218 process for proposed new water and sewer rates to fund the water reclamation facility project (WRF). Mayor Jamie Irons commented, “This action follows 5 years of extensive public engagement and input to define the goals for the project, and create a project that offers the best value for the community today and into the future. Due to the innovative aspects of the project, the City qualifies for low-interest loans that will not only give the City a needed new potable reuse water supply but also lower cost financing.”

### ***Proposition 218 notice going out this week***

On June 21, 2018, the [Blue Ribbon Commission](#) comprised of citizens with extensive business and financial experience advised that “the proposed rates are reasonable.” The rates include an addition of \$25 per month for water and \$16 per month for sewer for residential rate payers. Commercial users will have comparable increases based upon their volumes and types of use.

Per the Council’s direction, the City will issue a formal Proposition 218 notice with these rates to each rate payer and parcel owner in Morro Bay. Delivered via mail, this notice will include a specific description of the water and sewer surcharges for the new WRF project and the resulting rates that would take effect July 1, 2019. It also specifies the procedure for any rate payer to submit a protest due at or before the public hearing, scheduled for August 28, 2018.

### ***City setting up opportunities to answer questions and serve public***

“We’ve arranged special opportunities to help residents and commercial rate payers receive accurate information so that they can make an informed decision on this important matter,” said City Manager Scott Collins. The plans include providing office hours at the City and at the Chamber of Commerce to answer questions about the project, help rate payers calculate their rates, share plans for improvements in water delivery and wastewater collection in their neighborhoods, and help low-income rate payers apply for the City’s Utility Discount Program. A list of the dates and times for the office hours will be provided on the City’s webpage:

[www.morrobayca.gov](http://www.morrobayca.gov).

Follow the link to responses to Frequently Asked Questions and to learn more about the WRF project: <http://morrobaywrf.com/about-the-project/frequently-asked-questions/>.