



## Rate Plan Community Meeting Summary | Ward 1 | Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) staff made a presentation on RPU’s electric and water utility rate increase proposal. After being introduced by Mike Gardner, Ward 1 City Council Member, RPU General Manager Girish Balachandran explained why additional revenues are needed to replace aging infrastructure in order to protect the public health and safety of Riverside’s homes and businesses.



RPU General Manager Girish Balachandran

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### Meeting Location

City Hall, Mayor’s Ceremonial Room  
3900 Main Street, Riverside

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### Number of Community Attendees

15

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### Organizations Represented

Northside Improvement Association  
Riverside Food Systems Alliance

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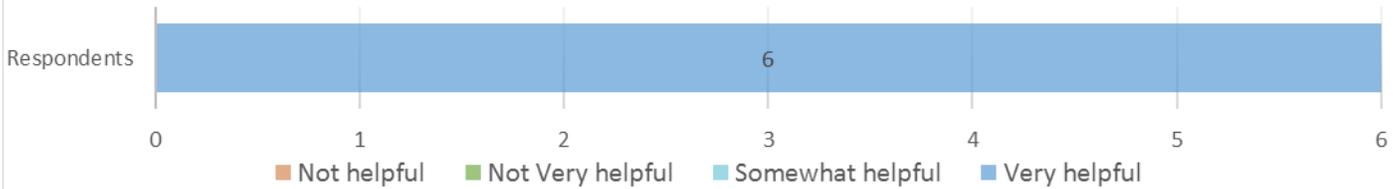
### Speakers

Mike Gardner, Ward 1 City Council Member  
Girish Balachandran, RPU General Manager

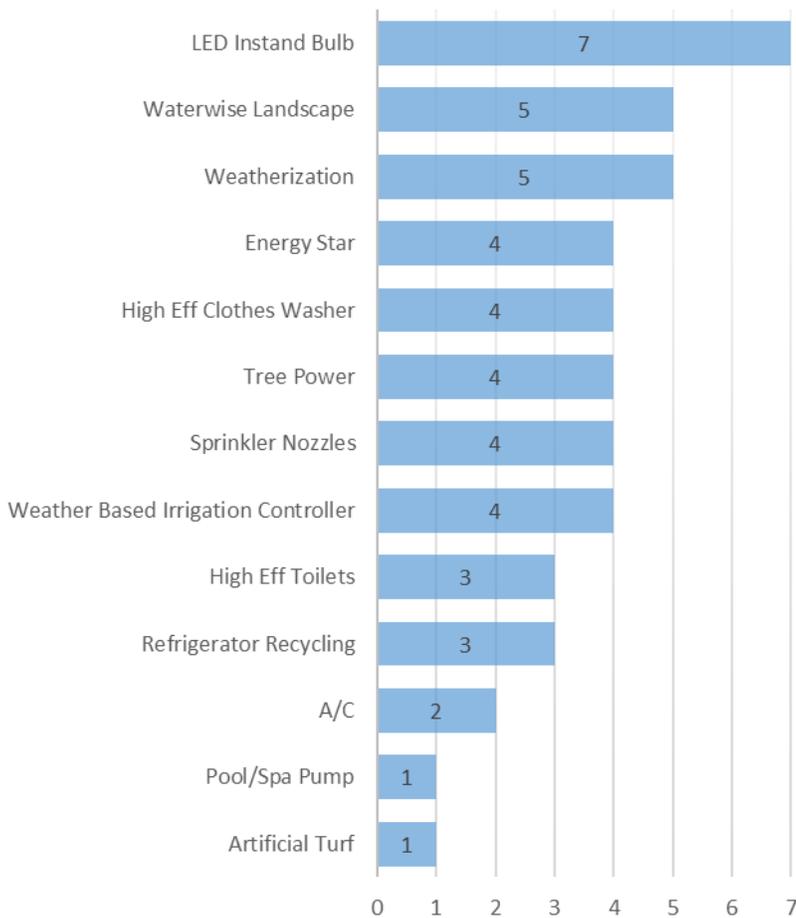
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## FEEDBACK CARD RESULTS - Ward 1 Community Meeting 11/8/2017

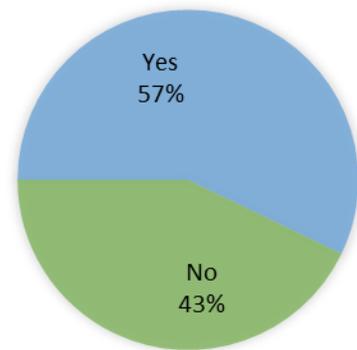
### DID THE INFORMATION PROVIDED AT THE MEETING HELP YOU UNDERSTAND RPU'S RATE PROPOSAL?



### NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS LIKELY TO USE AN RPU REBATE

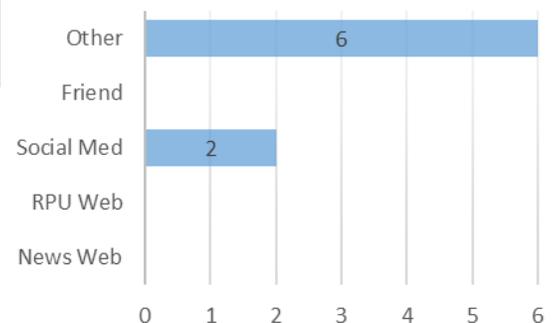


### 57% OF RESPONDENTS KNOW ABOUT RPU'S 40 REBATE PROGRAMS



**50%** OF ATTENDEES WERE AWARE OF SHARE PROGRAM INCOME LIMITS

### HOW PEOPLE HEARD ABOUT INFORMATIONAL MEETING



### COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM ATTENDEES

1. [Are there] City grants for agriculture?
2. Please explain general fund transfer.
3. Grandfather in "grove" users to a fair water rate.

## Meeting Handouts/Presentation

Click on below links to download

- [Community Meeting Presentation](#)
- [Rate Proposal Flyer \(En Español\)](#)
- [Rate Proposal FAQs \(En Español\)](#)

## Meeting Questions/Comments

Questions/Comments	Answers/Responses
<b>Infrastructure Replacement</b>	
<b>Has RPU allocated funds for decommissioning San Onofre Nuclear Generation Station? Are decommissioning costs included in this rate increase?</b>	RPU has already set aside funds for San Onofre decommissioning in a restricted reserve. No decommissioning funds will come out of the proposed rate increase.
<b>Are pole replacements going to be proactive or reactive?</b>	Both. RPU currently replaces about 200 electric poles per year. Based on industry standards, RPU should be replacing 600 poles per year. RPU actively inspects its poles annually to prioritize replacement.
<b>Has RPU analyzed potential cost savings by pre-purchasing materials such as poles?</b>	RPU conducts an annual accounting of projected versus annual capital costs as part of its financial reporting to the Board of Public Utilities and City Council. RPU does enter into long-term contracts for future power supply purchases, but does not currently make advanced purchases for infrastructure replacement. RPU will review this option for future purchases, potentially through regional partnerships.
<b>Water Supply</b>	
<b>Is RPU planning to expand the "purple pipe" recycled water system?</b>	RPU is currently implementing Phase I of a recycled water system expansion, which should be done by next summer. Funding for Phase II is included in the rate proposal.

Questions/Comments	Answers/Responses
<b>Agriculture</b>	
<p><b>Those currently on grove rates were encouraged to plant fruit trees and preserve Riverside's agricultural heritage. The proposed rate increase will have a tremendous impact on these customers. Don't you think it's right to grandfather in those who are currently on these rates?</b></p> <p><b>The value of our local food system is broader than just the 197 customers on WA-3 and WA-9 rates. Has RPU considered what will happen to Riverside's agriculture and the Grow Riverside movement if the proposed increases to agricultural rates are approved? If we lose farmers, we'll end up with brown fields.</b></p>	<p>RPU understands and appreciates these comments, which will be reflected to the Board of Public Utilities and City Council. This is a larger conversation than just the utility, dealing with public policy goals having to do with Riverside's agricultural heritage. RPU held a community meeting on October 30 specifically to discuss proposed changes to WA-3 and WA-9 grove rates. State law (Proposition 218) does not allow subsidies between different customer classes. RPU plans to propose a two-year grove rate increase equal to the percentage increase for other customers, and the formation of a task force to assist RPU in identifying opportunities to support agriculture consistent with state law. A summary of the October 30 community meeting, including customer comments, is <a href="#">available for download on RPU's Rate Plan and Public Meeting Documents webpage</a>.</p>
<p><b>I have a residence with a grove. Does RPU distinguish between water for the house and for the grove? It may be more fair to treat them separately by installing separate meters.</b></p>	<p>Currently, RPU treats both uses the same if they are off the same meter. RPU understands and appreciates this idea of dual metering, and will investigate it with the assistance of the proposed agricultural rates task force.</p>
<p><b>Are there City grants for agriculture?</b></p>	<p>RPU is not aware of any City grants for agriculture.</p>
<b>Finance</b>	
<p><b>Will new development over the next ten years have a positive or negative impact on rates?</b></p>	<p>RPU is obligated to serve all new developments. Staff projects system capacity needs for the next 25 years based on growth projections in the City's General Plan. New developments are required to pay a development fee which provides funding for system capacity expansion to serve the new demand.</p>
<p><b>Are commercial customers also impacted by the rate increase?</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><b>Please explain the General Fund Transfer.</b></p>	<p>Riverside's City Charter provides for a transfer of up to 11.5% of RPU's gross revenues to the City's General Fund. This transfer helps fund public safety, emergency services, parks and recreation, and other community benefits.</p>