



PUBLIC WORKS— Did you know...?

JULY 2009

CITY OF WOODLAND eNEWSLETTER

*“Public Works—
Revitalize,
Reinvest, Renew”*



**...Grant Funding will save
the City's ratepayers over \$4
a month off their future
water bills!**

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was signed into law by President Obama on February 17th, 2009. Among its provisions, ARRA provides approximately \$160 million to the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SDWSRF) for infrastructure development of California's drinking water systems. Over 2,200 pre-applications were received, with the funds requested exceeding \$6.8 billion.

The Utility Engineering Division of the Public Works Department applied for this grant for the implementation of the Phase 2 Water Meter Project. This project is aimed at complying with the requirement of Assembly Bill 2572. AB 2572 requires the City to install water meters on all municipal and industrial water service connections that are located in its service area by January 1, 2025. Phase 1 of this requirement is to assure that all water connections that are either already metered or whose water connection was made prior to January 1, 1992 are billed volumetrically by January 1, 2010. The City is currently fulfilling the Phase 1 requirements. All other customers are to be billed on a consumptive basis by January 1, 2025 (Phase 2). Moreover, the bill also authorizes urban water suppliers to recover the cost of providing services related to the purchase, installation, and operation of a water meter from rates, fees, or charges.

Phase 2 includes the installation and calibration of new meters and transmitters on all other properties in the City not included in Phase 1 (5,000 meter upgrades/installations will be finished in September, 2009). A total of approximately 10,000 meters and transmitters are expected to be installed in Phase 2 over the next 2 years and by then the City will be fully metered and compliant with the state requirements. The State will provide a loan in the amount of \$14,839,000 of which \$7,419,500 million would be a low interest (2.5%) loan and \$7,419,500 million will be provided as additional subsidization in form of principle forgiveness. This grant and very low interest loan will collectively save the City's rate payers about **\$4.28** every month for a period of 20 years in future expenses which is equivalent to a total cash savings of approximately \$14.4 million during this time period.

The Phase 2 portion of this project was formally scheduled to be completed over the next 7 to 8 years, however since \$14.839 million has been approved by CDPH, Phase 2 will be completed by 2011, five years ahead of schedule.

The early completion time frame will allow the City to take advantage of improved water conservation that occurs with consumption based meter billing. This would likely result in 15% reduction in water demand flow rates and reduce our Capital Improvement Plan costs for drilling replacement water wells. In addition, early completion of meter installation will reduce the dual-rate problems that come from some properties being charged by water volume (metered) and some being on flat rates. By the end of the project all residential water customers will participate in the same rate structure. Water usage and costs will then be standardized throughout the City.

For more information about the Phase 2 Water Meter Project please call
530-661-5945.