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DATE: August 20, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Travis Sanborn, Finance Director

THROUGH: Kyle Knopp, City Manager

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 1617-2024 Amending Resolution 1281-2015 Establishing Water Fees and Charges for Water Customers Pursuant to Chapter 13.05 of the Rio Dell Municipal Code

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Adopt Resolution No. 1617-2024 Amending Resolution 1281-2015 Establishing Water Fees and Charges for Water Customers Pursuant to Chapter 13.05 of the Rio Dell Municipal Code

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

Currently, the City requires a \$100 deposit from non-owner customers when they open a new water account. This deposit, established by Resolution 1281-2015, is refundable in whole or part after all final charges are settled. Since the implementation of this policy, the City's water rates have increased, and SB 998, the Water Shutoff Protection Act, has been introduced, mandating a minimum period before water service can be disconnected.

Under the current deposit amount, customers can accrue up to \$241.16 in charges before service disconnection occurs, based on the minimum water base charge and no usage charges. This deposit amount does not adequately cover the potential cost to the water enterprise fund, leading to shortfalls that other ratepayers ultimately absorb.

It is recommended that the deposit amount be increased to \$200 to better align with current regulations and costs. This adjustment will more effectively cover potential expenses incurred if a customer is unable to settle their bill before the mandated shutoff period, thereby reducing the financial impact on ratepayers.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution 1617-2024



**RESOLUTION NO. 1617-2024**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF**  
**THE CITY OF RIO DELL**  
**AMENDING RESOLUTION 1281-2015 ESTABLISHING**  
**WATER FEES AND CHARGES FOR WATER**  
**CUSTOMERS PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 13.05 OF THE**  
**RIO DELL MUNICIPAL CODE**

**WHEREAS**, The City of Rio Dell is authorized by and pursuant to Article XI, Section 7 of the California Constitution, Government Code Section 66000 et seq., and Government Code Section 50076, and other applicable state laws and regulations to impose fees to cover expenses for the services it provides; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of Rio Dell did on November 7, 2000 adopt Water Ordinance No. 241 (Rio Dell Municipal Code Chapter 13.05) that allows for all rates, charges, fees, and penalties contained in the ordinance to be modified by resolution of the City Council of the City of Rio Dell to provide for future charges; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of Rio Dell did on May 21, 2002 adopt Ordinance No. 243-2002, amending Water Ordinance No. 241, allowing for monthly bills to be calculated as set forth by resolution duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Rio Dell; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of Rio Dell did on August 7, 2012 adopt Resolution 1168-2012 establishing water rates, charges and fees pursuant to provisions of the Rio Dell Municipal Code Chapter 13.05; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of Rio Dell did on February 18, 2014 adopt Resolution 1217-2014 restating water rates, charges, and fees pursuant to provisions of the Rio Dell Municipal Code Chapter 13.05; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of Rio Dell did on December 1, 2015 adopt Resolution 1281-2015 establishing water rates, charges, and fees pursuant to provisions of the Rio Dell Municipal Code Chapter 13.05;

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of Rio Dell did on May 16, 2017 adopt Ordinance No. 356-2017 renumbering section 13.05.230 to section 13.05.240 in Rio Dell Municipal Code Chapter 13.05 that allows for fees, rates and charges to be established by resolution of the City Council;

**WHEREAS**, the Rio Dell City Council, by means of written resolution, is authorized to fix and determine rates and charges for water service provided by the City to all of its users as noted above.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Rio Dell that this Resolution establishes, restates, amends and continues the water service rates and charges for residential, commercial, and institutional customers established pursuant to Resolution 1281-2015, and affirms that all rates, charges, and fees thereunder shall remain levied and assessed except for the amendment to Section 8 as stated in Section 1 of this Resolution 1617-2024, which shall take effect on and after September 1, 2024.

**SECTION 1. Amendment to Resolution 1281-2015**

Resolution 1281-2015 is hereby amended as follows: Section 8 of Resolution 1281-2015 shall be amended to read as stated below, and Resolution 1281-2015 shall hereinafter be read and interpreted as if Section 8 exists and is stated therein:

**SECTION 8. Water Deposits**

There shall be no water deposits required for owner occupied customers. Water Deposits for all nonowner customers (Tenants) shall be \$200. This amount is refundable in whole or part after all final charges are applied.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the City of Rio Dell on this 20th day of August 2024, by the following roll call vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra Garnes, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Dunham, City Clerk