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Weather

MONTEREY BAY AREA — Low overcast and fog through Tuesday clearing inland areas in afternoons. Highs in 60s to low 70s. Lows in 50s. West to northwest wind 10 to 20 mph afternoons.

Temperatures for 24 - hour period ending at 8 a.m. today: High 63, Low 54.

Water Supply

11% Water Hike Asked

An 11 per cent water rate increase was endorsed today by the city water commission and recommended to the city council for approval.

Recommended also was a plan calling for patrons to pay for the amount of water they actually use rather than for minimum basic units of allowable consumption plus extra fees for water in excess of those allowable units.

The commissioners hope council approval will be in time to get the new rate into effect this autumn.

The rate is lower than a one-shot 18 per cent increase recommended by a consultant firm after a study of water system needs.

However, the firm gave commissioners two choices: either a one-shot increase now or two 11 per cent increases—one this year, the other in 1977.

The commission chose to make only the 11 per cent increase at this time. They left open for future study whether a new increase will be sought two years hence.

Hit hardest by the rate increases will be the big industrial users, such as Salz Tannery and the packing houses.

Some increases for these will be huge. For instance, those who now pay \$2,220 for 10,000 Ccf (units of 100 cubic feet) will pay \$3,307 under the new plan.

On the other hand, a homeowner who now uses 5 Ccf per month will pay \$3.18 rather than the current \$2.85 if the new rates are approved.

The main reason behind the

new method of charging for water actually consumed is to spread water system costs more equitably, commissioners stressed.

The endorsement came after Morris Allen, city water director, stated "The present rate structure is not an equitable rate structure because it places stress on residential uses. The single family consumer is the one who picks up the tab because he is in the first block rate. The industrial users get a big amount of water at low cost."

Commissioners noted there is an incentive to the big users of water to take conservation measures because they would pay a higher share of system costs.

The 11 per cent increase would not be 11 per cent for each consumer, commissioners noted. Rather, it would be spread across the full range of water users in all categories and

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Reds Win Big In Italy

ROME (AP) — Italy's big Communist party, fighting for a voice in national government, scored spectacular gains tonight in early returns from two days of nationwide regional elections.

11 Pct. Water Hike Proposed

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would in effect amount to an 11 per cent increase in water sales income for the water department.

But if high increases for some and low increases for others are averaged, the net hike will be 11 per cent.

At one point it was stated that the owner of a single family home who used very little water might pay smaller bills than he now pays even though the rate charged for consumed water is higher.

The department guesses it will sell 4,667,500 Ccf in 1975 - 1976 to customers on 17,717 meters. It is expected that service charges will bring in \$444,805 and water sales will bring in \$1,900,350. Total income is projected at \$2,345,155, with the new rates and charges figured in.

The new plan calls for all users in and out of the city to pay a monthly service charge. This depends upon meter size and the location of the consuming unit.

For example, a single-family house with a meter size three-fourths inch would have a monthly service charge of \$1.94 inside the city and \$1.94 outside the city. For a three-inch meter the charge would be \$1.78 inside the city and \$2.66 outside the city.

To the monthly service charge would be added the cost of the water consumed.

New rates per Ccf of consumption for various categories of users are proposed to the council as follows, with rates for customers outside the city shown in parentheses:

Single family - 38 cents (31 cents). Multiple residential - 47 cents (31 cents). Commercial and institutional - 50 cents (33 cents). Golf courses - 27 cents (41 cents).

The quantity charges recognize that there are different stages to the water system. Bulk delivery of water to large scale complexes for use in water.