

Drought Surcharge Public Hearing

November 19, 2015
San Lorenzo Valley Water District



Proposition 218

The “Right to Vote on Taxes” Initiative

- Constitutional amendment passed by voters in 1996.
- **Property** related fee or charge
- Notice provided to ALL parcels within the District, regardless of service, based on the last County assessed tax roll.
- Notice provided to Owner AND Site address. Two notices per parcel. Ensures owner and tenant have been informed.

Proposition 218 (cont.)

District serves 7,444 unique parcels.

Protest requires 50% + 1.

(3,722 + 1 = 3,723 protests required)

Reasons Given for Protests Received by Mail

- Personal
- District Governance/Management
- Drought

Reasons Given for Protests, Personal

- Customer on fixed income
- Remove all fluoride in the water

Reasons Given for Protests, District Governance/Management

- Sell Johnson property. No new offices. Don't buy new vehicles.
- Run Company more responsibly. Should have had adequate reserves. Run company more like a business and less like a government. Look at water management projects and wages first. Did not use funds already provided wisely.
- Need a plan that works for community's interest.
- Already high costs because of punitive regulations. Rates have been raised again and again.
- Customers should have access to financial statements and an updated list of approved projects.
- Join the computer age and do this electronically.
- Taking over Zayante Water District. Bought Lompico Water District.

Reasons Given for Protests, Drought Related

- 'Punish' or 'penalize' people for conservation.
- No end provided for the drought surcharge. Finite expenditures do not warrant permanent funding.
- Increase or surcharge only those higher water consumers.
- Should have had the exact opposite of a 'rainy day' fund. Reserve fund for drought.
- Usage based surcharge will create a 'death-spiral'.
- Sends the wrong message regarding conservation.