

Chronology of Events relating to Water Rates in West Linn

[from 1982 through 2010]

September	1982	Water System Master Plan (1982) was completed and released by Murray Smith & Associates.
May	1983	Voters authorize the issuance of \$1,025,000 in General Obligation bonds for construction of various water system improvements (1,036 yes to 933 no).
August	1983	Council passes Ordinance No. 1119 increasing water rates.
October	1983	GO Bonds are issued that were approved by the voters earlier in May 1983.
March	1986	Voters do not authorize the issuance of \$1,645,000 in General Obligation bonds for construction, repair and improvements to water distribution, transmission, and storage facilities and to acquire real property necessary for these improvements.
March	1987	Water System Master Plan (1987) was updated by Murray Smith & Associates Council appoints members to a Citizens Water System Improvement Task Force, and establishes guidelines and their charge. The Task Force met weekly until the issuance of their final report in July.
July	1987	Council receives Task Force's final report containing their conclusions and recommendations. The Task Force's recommendations included increasing the water rates by 41.4% and issuing \$850,000 in water system improvement bonds.
August	1987	Based upon the Task Force's recommendation, the Council passes Resolution No. 87-19 to place an \$850,000 bond measure on the ballot. The voters approve this Measure (1,937 yes to 1,872 no) and the bonds were later issued in November 1987. Council holds work session with Task Force to discuss recommended 41.4% rate increase pursuant to solving the financial needs of the water operations. Council passes Ordinance No. 1208 increasing water rates by 33.6% (this increase was never put into effect as it was later repealed by the voters in November 1987).
November	1987	Referendum was placed on the ballot by a citizens group (Citizens for Effective City Planning) opposing the 33.6% water rate increase who gathered enough signatures on their referendum petition seeking a repeal of the water rate increase. Voters repeal the City's proposed water rate increase and the previous rates that were in effect, are immediately reinstated per Ordinance No. 1220.

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February	1988	Staff prepares a report to Council presenting three water rate increase options to fund water operations and to pay for Priority II improvements at the end of 6 years.
March	1988	Council holds Town Hall meeting receiving public comment and input.
April	1988	Council adopts Ordinance No. 1234 increasing water rates by 8.5% based upon Option #1 of the 6-year operating scenario for the Water Fund.
October	1989	Staff updates and releases the Water Fund's 5-Year Operating Plan for fiscal years 1990 through 1994.
July	1991	SDCs are updated pursuant to new State law (Oregon's SDC Act) and Council passes Ordinance No. 1302 to comply. New SDC rates and methodologies are proposed based upon special 1991 study conducted by Economic Resource Associates.
July	1992	Council passes updated SDC charges based upon 1992 study conducted by Economic Resource Associates.
August	1993	Water Rates Cost-of-Service report is completed by Economic Resource Associates and Council holds work session to review and study report. Work on this report is completed a year later, with a final report issued in September 1994.
November	1993	South Fork Water Board (SFWB) increases its wholesale water rate charge to the cities of West Linn and Oregon City by approximately 38.5%. This increase was based upon a Cost-of-Service report conducted by Economic Resource Associates. With new rates in place, SFWB issues \$3 million in water revenue bonds. Staff updates the Water Fund's 5-Year Operating Plan for fiscal years 1990 through 1994 reviewing last 4 years of results.
July	1994	SFWB increases its wholesale water rate charge to the cities of West Linn and Oregon City by approximately 68.3%. This increase was based upon a 2nd Cost-of-Service report conducted by Economic and Engineering Services, Inc. SFWB issues \$4.3 million in water revenue bonds.
August	1994	Water Rates Cost-of-Service report is updated by Economic Resource Associates. The last twelve months involved several Council work sessions discussing increasing water rates.
September	1994	Council passes Ordinance No. 1366 increasing water rates (this increase was also not put into affect as it was later repealed by the voters in November 1995).

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December	1994	SFWB receives SDC Report conducted by Economic and Engineering Services, Inc. and adopts SDC charges for SFWB.
November	1995	Voters repeal the City's proposed water rate increase with Ordinance No. 1366 and the previous rates were reinstated.
April	1999	Water System Master Plan (1999) was completed by Montgomery Watson.
June	1999	Council passes Resolution No. 99-25 authorizing up to \$5.4 million in water revenue bonds to fund projects identified in the Water Master Plan.
September	2000	Council passes Resolution No. 00-41 issuing \$1.8 million in water revenue bonds to fund repairs to the I-205/Abernethy Bridge water transmission main, construct a booster pump station, and other improvements as identified in the Water Master Plan. As part of this bond issuance, bond holders required a rate covenant test requiring debt service to always equal or exceed 130% of Net Operating Revenues as measured on an annual basis.
March	2004	Water System Master Plan (2004) was updated by City Staff (Gary Parkin, P.E.).
November	2008	Water System Master Plan (2008) was completed by Murray Smith & Associates.
April	2009	Utility Advisory Board recommends 16% water rate increases to Council including a comment that, pending the results of the Water Rate Study, Council may need to seek even more of a percentage increase.
July	2009	Water Rate Study is completed by Pioneer Consulting Group, Inc. and is presented to the Utility Advisory Board and Council. Includes raising of overall water rates to generate bond funding of Master Plan projects and conservation pricing that eliminates the 7ccfs currently included in the base amount.
January	2010	SDCs rates and methodologies are updated and increases are phased-in over 3 years pursuant to a SDC Fee Report conducted by FSC Group.
July	2010	Council passes Resolution No. 2010-27 placing a measure on the ballot (Measure 3-364) requesting voters to consider authorizing a water rate increase, phased-in over 3 years, and to change the rate structure to provide a conservation pricing structure that eliminates the 7ccfs currently included in the base water amount.
November	2010	Voters do not approve Measure 3-364 (4,113 yes to 7,691 no).