



A COALITION FOR TREES, TRAILS AND GREENBELTS

August 15, 2013

RE: Remarks to Fresno City Council on the Water Rate proposal

Good afternoon. On behalf of Tree Fresno, we wish to express support for the water rate proposal to protect our water supply, reduce the use of energy and develop greenbelts. Here are seven reasons for the community to support this proposal:

- **Water Conservation:** raising the price of water will encourage people to be frugal with the use of water. And the rates paid will benefit Fresno.
- **Water Storage:** creating the capacity to store water will allow us to capture and retain flood waters for use in periods of drought. (a lesson from the Bible)
- **Surface Water Treatment:** building a water treatment plant in SE Fresno will reduce the energy required to treat and distribute water.
- **Boundaries:** we all need boundaries. 7 years ago we asked the Fresno City Council to use strategic open space to protect farmland and contain sprawl. Establishing a greenbelt along the east, southeast, southwest and west could serve this purpose. A “sprawl wall.” The land for water storage and treatment would be an important component of our environmental defense system.
- **Parks, Recreation, Wildlife:** The Valley Arboretum calls for greenbelts to surround the Fresno-Clovis metro area which will provide parks, recreation and wildlife habitat. The groundwater recharge sites can be part of a strategic open space system, create accessible green space for our citizens in SE and SW Fresno and improve our ParkScore.
- **Leverage:** developing water storage facilities will facilitate the formation of partnerships to implement the groundwater recharge system.
- **Future Generations:** replacing and adding to our water facilities will protect future generations and preclude leaving them with yet another deficit.

That's it!

The mission of Tree Fresno is to transform the San Joaquin Valley with trees, trails, greenbelts and beautiful landscapes. We believe the water rate proposal will be a step toward achieving this goal. (Introduce team members)

Thank you,
Lee Ayres