



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Ute Water's Board Approves A Water Rate Increase**

Mesa County, Colorado - Ute Water Conservancy District's Board of Directors voted unanimously to raise the District's water rates in 2012. Ute Water provides domestic water to over 80,000 people in Mesa County, making it the largest domestic water provider between Denver, Colorado and Salt Lake City, Utah.

The fourteen member Board of Directors discussed and approved the District's 2012 Budget which reflected a proposed rate increase. Ute Water utilizes a full-cost pricing approach when evaluating water rates. The District's primary source of revenue is derived from monthly water sales. The revenue from water sales are expected to cover all operations, maintenance and the replacement cost of the existing system while preparing for the future demands and upgrades to the system. Additional revenue includes water tap fees which are driven by growth. The District's 2012 Budget does not reflect a tap fee increase.

The District uses a multi-tiered, increasing block water rate system which means the more water a customer uses, over the initial minimum, the more they are going to be charged. This rate schedule format is consistent with most domestic water providers across the State of Colorado. The new water rate increases the \$13.00 minimum, for the first

3,000 gallons of water, to a \$15.00 minimum. The minimum water rate for the other tap sizes will also increase proportionally. The new water rates will be for water delivered in January 2012 and billed after January 31, 2012.

All cost categories have been repeatedly reviewed and pared down where possible, without affecting water quality and service. The District recently completed a Raw Water Study which has helped determine the future water needs based on the projected population growth in the Grand Valley and the Districts available water supply. The Board has taken a proactive approach, based on the outcome of the study, to insure the appropriate infrastructure, technology and raw water supply will be in place.

For more information on Ute Water's rate increase, please contact Joseph Burtard at Ute Water Conservancy District at (970) 242-7491.

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