



**Long Beach Water Department**  
The Standard in Water Conservation &  
Environmental Stewardship

**Board Approves Small Water Rate Increase;  
First Time in Six Years**

LONG BEACH, CA - The Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners unanimously approved the Long Beach Water Department's FY'04 Budget on Thursday, July 24. The \$84.4 million budget, down from \$89 million in FY'03, includes a small water-rate increase, the first rate increase in six years, bringing the average water bill back to where it was in 1997.

With the rate increase, the average customer's bill can be expected to increase by 3.1 percent, or about 92 cents per month, beginning October 1, 2003. Historically, the Long Beach Water customers have enjoyed some of the lowest water rates in the region. In fact, Long Beach Water has actually reduced its charges to the average residential customer each year for the last six, during a period of time when the Consumer Price Index increased nearly seventeen-percent (17%).

"Years of rising operation and maintenance costs, in addition to increases in the cost of imported water and labor, are the primary reasons for the Board of Water Commissioners decision," stated Ryan J. Alsop, Manager of Government and Public Affairs. "Even with this necessary increase, our customers will continue to enjoy some of the lowest rates in the region. In fact, our water rates are still 5 percent below the Los Angeles County average."

The Long Beach Water Department is an urban, Southern California municipal water agency.