

## THE OLDHAM ERA

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### **Oldham County Water District proposes 28 percent increase**

The Oldham County Water District is proposing a 28-percent rate increase in 2010 – an additional \$6.35 per month for the average residential customer.

Officials discussed reasons for the increase Tuesday during an Oldham County Fiscal Court meeting, although the court has no role with the water district.

According to a press release from the water district, the proposed increase is the district's second in 28 years.

The additional charges will fund part of a three-phase program for the Oldham County Water District to expand infrastructure, including two new wells, raw water and transmission mains and a water treatment plant expansion in the first phase with a \$15.4 million price tag.

Water district officials say the projects will increase the district's capacity to acquire, treat and convey drinking water to customers in a cost-effective, reliable manner.

Commissioner Mel Milburn said during the past 20 years, the water district has faced substantial growth, and during that time, has been forced to react to the needs of the system rather than be proactive.

Milburn said district officials realize the rate increase comes at a bad time considering what's going on with the current economy, but the water district isn't immune to what's going on the economy.

The increase puts rates for the Oldham County Water District within a few cents of districts in surrounding counties.

The Oldham County Water District has 8,000 customers, including the City of La Grange and the Kentucky State Reformatory.

### **Louisville Water Co. plans increase up to 5.5 percent**

Customers of the Louisville Water Co. could see a rate increase of 4.5 to 5.5 percent in the coming year. According to a press release from LWC, a typical residential water bill would increase by about three cents per day.

LWC officials said like other businesses, the recession has impacted the company, and water sales and interest income have dropped sharply. So far in 2009, water consumption is down 5 percent overall and nearly 17 percent for industrial customers.

LWC has significantly cut operation and maintenance expenses and also reduced the workforce.

Louisville Water Co. provides water to about 850,000 people in Louisville Metro and parts of Bullitt, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer and Nelson counties.

The Board of Water Works will review and finalize the 2010 budget at its November meeting.