

Rend Lake Conservancy District

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

(Whittington) 05/07 – The Rend Lake Conservancy District took formal action this week to freeze the 2020 water rate increase that had been scheduled to go into effect May 1, 2020. The District Board voted to freeze the previously approved annual water rate increase of 2.5%. The current rates will remain in effect for a period of 90 days starting May 1, 2020 and continuing through July 31, 2020. This action was taken in order to assist communities and customers with economic losses related to COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

“The District, as always, remains committed to serving Southern Illinois, and it is our hope other utilities will follow our lead to lessen the financial impact that COVID-19 is having on so many families.” Said Board Vice-President Nicholas LeMay, who made the motion during the District’s annual budget meeting on Wednesday (May 6, 2020). “As the situation continues to evolve the administration and Board will be looking at additional ways we may be able to assist both our customers and local governments,” LeMay added.

The Mayor of Sesser and President of the Southern Illinois Mayors Association, Mayor Jason Ashmore, and Mayor Mike Absher of Marion expressed their appreciation to the District for freezing the rates for the 90-day period. The mayors thanked the District for working with them during this time of uncertainty. The water rate freeze will help the communities and families of southern Illinois during this financially difficult time.

Rend Lake Conservancy District General Manager Keith Thomason also reported to the Board that the District has partnered with the Illinois American Water Works Association to be a distribution hub for personal protective masks provided by the federal government for utilities throughout southern Illinois. To date the District has made or is making available over 1,500 masks to southern Illinois water and wastewater utilities. General Manager Thomason stated “We are all working together to help protect both our employees and our customers during this difficult period. We thank those agencies that are helping us obtain protective equipment for our utility workers who we rely on each and every day.”

The Rend Lake Conservancy District is a multi-county regional government organized under the Illinois River Conservancy Districts Act. The District is governed by a seven-member Board of Trustees who oversee the management of the District including the public water and sewer systems. The District’s water treatment and distribution system supplies water to over 170,000 people in 7 counties. As authorized by the Act, the District also operates various recreational facilities including a 27-hole golf course, a hotel and condominium complex, cabins, and land management activities including hunting and farming.

For more information on all aspects of The Rend Lake Conservancy District visit www.rendlake.org or call 618-439-4321.

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