

**SALEM CITY  
PROPOSED PRESSURIZED IRRIGATION SYSTEM INFORMATION SHEET  
MARCH 7, 2006**

**Purpose:** Salem City is looking into the possibility of constructing a new city-wide pressurized irrigation (PI) system. Planning started in early 1990's. 20% of City has dry pipes.

**Goals:** Conserve high quality drinking water  
Fully & efficiently utilize our local surface (canal) water  
- (Earth irrigation ditches can lose 30% to 50% from seepage and evaporation)  
Keep canal water in our town (plenty of downstream users will take it from us)  
Maintain long term affordable drinking & irrigation water

**Public Meetings:** First Meeting was November 9, 2005 - Second Meeting March 7, 2006  
Public involvement & opinions are encouraged and needed.

**PROPOSED PRESSURIZED IRRIGATION SYSTEM INFORMATION**

Proposed Funding	\$5,000,000 \$6,000,000 \$675,000	CUP Grant (Do not have to repay) Board of Water Resources Loan (4 or 5%, 30 Yrs) Salem City Self Participation (Required for Loan)
Connection Fee	\$450 per connection	This is a <u>One Time Only Fee</u> that could be paid over a 12 month or 24 month period of time.
Monthly User Fee	\$25 Per Month (Average)	This fee is paid every month, 12 months of the year. This represents the average for all connections.
Metering	No Meters	Currently individual meters are not planned.
Existing Water Rights	Purchase @ \$400 /Share Strawberry \$1000 / Share Salem Canal	These rights are needed to put water in the pipes. It is not anticipated that the pressurized system will service large agricultural users.
Construction Schedule	Ready for Use Spring 2008	The construction will require trenching many of the city streets. The proposed construction budget includes repairing all disturbed city streets, sidewalks, asphalt, and private property. The construction will result in a 1" connection to nearly every home in Salem.

**OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

**Existing Ditches in Salem City:** Some ditches will remain for agricultural water users and storm drainage, others will be abandoned.

**Existing Culinary Water System:** Culinary Water Rates will be raised to meet the existing financial obligations and to encourage PI system use.

**Some Perspective:** We all understand that at first glance this may seem expensive, but look back 25, 50, or 100 years when many of our fathers, grandfathers, and others invested in our current water, sewer, roads, power and other city utility systems. The costs seemed tremendous, but, they understood that this investment would allow us to enjoy some of the cheapest utility rates in the valley today. Over the next 10 years, we will be paying more for total water use, but, after that time we will again have some of the lowest water rates in the valley, and most importantly, we should be able to maintain this with only minor changes given a properly implemented rate structure including impact fees collected from new growth.

**It is our turn to invest in the future.** The only possible way to maintain long term water rate stability is long range planning. The construction of a Pressurized Irrigation System is long range planning and our only hope to keep our water in Salem City forever. If we do not act now one thing is sure, the water and the \$5 million grant will be used by someone else and the cost of drinking water will continually increase.

The future is in your hands.

Thank you for your time.

**Salem City Mayor and Council**