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WATER RATE INCREASE

As you know, Union County will be increasing the water rates throughout the county. That increase is going to be 15%, effective July 1, 2020 and then another 15% in January of 2021. I would like to explain to you why this is happening and also how these increases will affect your water bill.

1. **REASON FOR INCREASE:** Presently, Union County has two water sources that it uses. One is from the Catawba River. Union County has a partnership with Lancaster County water plant that provides water to the western part of our county. The second source is from Anson County. Union County has a contract with Anson County and the majority of our water, here in Wingate comes from Anson. Leaders have been studying the future growth of Union County and they have realized that Union County will need additional water resources in order to keep up with growth. Therefore; Union County has entered into an agreement with Stanley and Montgomery County to transfer water from Lake Tillery over to Union County. Union County will then construct a water plant to treat that raw water for use in the Eastern part of Union County. The estimated cost for this project is in excess of \$900,000,000.
2. **HOW WILL THIS AFFECT WINGATE:** As you may know, Wingate is a “purchase water system.” We purchase our water from Union County and then sell it to our customers. Any increase that we see from the county has to be passed on to our customers. With the upgrades in our water system that we have done in the past 10 years, we are in much better shape to manage our water consumption, thus saving money in additional purchase cost to the county.

Our goal has always been, and always will be, to provide safe and reliable water and wastewater service. We understand changes in the rate structure may be undesirable but necessary to fund system improvements.



