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For Immediate Release

## PRESS RELEASE

### GSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS VOTES UNANIMOUSLY TO SET PUBLIC HEARING AND SEND PROP. 218 NOTICES FOR PROPOSED RATE ADJUSTMENT

Garberville, CA. - To help the public understand how the recently proposed rate adjustments will ensure the reliability of water and sewer service for Garberville Sanitary District (GSD) customers, the GSD Board received a presentation by Jennie Short explaining the contents of the 2020 Water and Sewer Rate Study at their January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. The report analyzed GSD's financial condition, presents a capital improvement plan, and outlines the proposed rate adjustments that will maintain economic stability for the next five years. The Rate Study can be viewed at the GSD website at <https://www.garbervillesd.org/rate-study-service-fees>

"We encourage our customers to attend Board meetings over the next two months so that they can be informed about the changes being proposed," said GSD General Manager Ralph Emerson. "As a public agency, it is our duty to be transparent as we make decisions that will allow us to ensure safe, clean and reliable water every time our customers turn on their faucets or flush their toilets."

The Board of Directors voted unanimously last week to support a plan that would simplify the methodology for calculating water and sewer base rates as well as raise revenue over the next five years (2020-2024). This revenue increase would allow GSD to meet all operations costs, fund \$1.7 million worth of water and sewer capital improvement projects and maintain reserves to a healthy \$800,000 at the end of 2024.

The GSD Board has not increased rates in 7 years but during that time, the cost to do business and provide quality water and customer service has continued to increase rapidly. That is why the Rate Committee has spent 2 years working on new rates that allow GSD to operate while completing necessary projects and infrastructure replacements.

"This rate adjustment keeps rates acceptable for our customers, who use water wisely, while allowing for infrastructure upgrades," said Linda Brodersen, Chair of the Board, "It

is the responsibility of our Board to prepare for emergencies with a healthy reserve and to plan for the future of our 90-year-old agency.”

The Board of Directors will hold a public hearing at 6 p.m. on April 28 at GSD’s office, 919 Redwood Drive, Garberville, before voting for the proposed rates. Written public protests must be submitted to GSD before the end of the public hearing. The official Public Hearing Notice, which will have the criteria for filing a formal protest, will be mailed soon to all property owners within GSD’s service boundaries and current customers.