The workshop/pre-Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council chambers. Council members answering roll call were: Avalos, Derr, Lujan, Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez, and Mayor Grey.

Also present were City Manager Heusser, City Attorney Costanzo, Fire Chief Kestly, Public Works Director Weaver, Financial Consultant Yribarren, the press, and interested citizens.

The agenda for this meeting was duly posted in a location visible at all times by the general public seventy-two hours prior to this meeting.

**PRESENTATION BY CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY REGARDING RECENT WATER RATE INCREASE:** City Manager Heusser presented Mr. Tom Smegal, Vice President of regulatory and corporate relations for California Water Service Company (Cal Water), who stepped forward and made a power point presentation on the services Cal Water provides, the improvements made to the water system in Selma, and the costs associated with those improvements. He reviewed the rate process and the decisions made by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), which led to the recent rate increase. He also reviewed the percentages allocated to each portion of the increase and stated that the State has also mandated a reduction in water usage by 2020 and that it will require an education/conservation phase. He also reported that any reduction in rates would have to be made up in future years. He then stated that Cal Water is willing to forgo the increases proposed for 2012 and 2013 in order to help the citizens of Selma. He then reviewed the various plans and programs available to Selma’s residents to help reduce water use, which includes such things as a low-income ratepayer program, installation of water meters, and a bathroom retrofit program.

Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez then asked what percentage of Selma residents are currently metered. It was reported that approximately 60% do have meters installed.

Council member Derr asked what the savings would be for metered vs. non-metered residences. It was reported that the saving average around $10.00 per month.

Council member Avalos then suggested placing an ad in the newspaper to let Selma’s residents know of the above programs of which they could take advantage.

Council member Lujan suggested that Selma’s elected officials protest the rates to the PUC to see if the rates could be lowered.

Ms. Florence Villeria, Mr. Juan Mendoza, Mr. Don Self, Ms. Catherine Fluker, Ms. Laura Lopez, Mr. Joe Hernandez, and Ms. Sylvia Clark all stepped forward and spoke about the rate increase and the possible takeover of the water system by the City.
After further discussion, Mayor Grey stated that he will continue to work with Cal Water and the PUC to see what can be done about the rates, possibility through an appeal process.

Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez then asked if the City has enough monetary resources to take over the water system and it was reported that at this time we do not.

Council member Avalos then thanked everyone for attending.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie A. Carter, CMC
City Clerk

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Kenneth Grey
Mayor of the City of Selma