

SLV Water District Initiative Measure

Here's a statement of reasons for the measure:

We propose to align San Lorenzo Valley Water District's rate structure with its Mission Statement for equitable rates. The District's sharply rising Service Charge and proliferation of additional fixed charges has shifted the primary cost burden onto low water users. The proposed Ordinance will limit how much the Service Charge can increase each year.

Here's the measure text:

Whereas the District is committed to equitable rates in its Mission Statement; and

Whereas the sharply rising Service Charge and proliferation of additional fixed charges has shifted the primary cost burden onto low water users; and

Whereas having a lower Service Charge supports affordable rates for low-income households; and

Whereas the District had other options for people to pay their fair share with a lower Service Charge; and

Whereas the District abandoned the goal of water conservation by reducing volume charges for most customers which tilted the rate structure towards fixed charges; and

Whereas a rate structure limiting fixed charges is a step towards affordability and equity;

Therefore, the people of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District do ordain as follows:

1. **Title.** This shall be known as the "Fixed Charge Limitation Ordinance".
2. **Definition.** "Fixed charge" as used in this ordinance means any continuous, periodic charge not based on volume of water consumed.
3. **Effective date.** This ordinance shall go into effect 10 days after the date the vote is declared.
4. **Repeal of fixed charges.** All fixed charges are hereby repealed except the regular Service Charge (also known as the Base Charge, Basic Charge, or Ready-to-Serve Charge) and the Private Fire Service Charge.
5. **Limitation of fixed charge.** The regular Service Charge shall be limited to a 2% increase each calendar year.
6. **Termination date.** This ordinance shall terminate on January 1, 2049.
7. **Severability.** If any portions of this ordinance are deemed to be inconsistent with law by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder shall remain fully in effect.

Passed and adopted by a majority vote of the electorate of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District.

Total fixed charges if the initiative measure passes:

Meter Size	What we paid as of 1/1/23	What we're paying as of 3/1/24	Initiative in effect as of 12/15/24	What we'll pay as of 1/1/25	What we'll pay as of 1/1/26
5/8" or 3/4"	\$45.01	\$65.36	\$48.04	\$49.00	\$49.98
1"	\$69.08	\$101.42	\$72.56	\$74.01	\$75.49
1.5"	\$129.27	\$191.56	\$133.85	\$136.53	\$139.26
2"	\$201.49	\$299.73	\$207.39	\$211.54	\$215.77
3"	\$394.08	\$588.19	\$403.51	\$411.58	\$419.81
4"	\$610.75	\$912.71	\$624.15	\$636.63	\$649.36

Example 5/8" and 3/4" meter single-family residential bills:

What we paid in 2023		What we're paying now		What we'll pay under initiative with 2024 tiers	What we'll pay under initiative with 2025 tiers		
Units	2023 rate	1/1/23	2024 rates	3/1/24	12/15/24	2025 rates	1/1/25
0	Single tier at \$12.66 per unit	\$45.01	Tier 1 @ \$8.69 per unit	\$65.36	\$48.04	Tier 1 @ \$9.56 per unit	\$49.00
1		\$57.67		\$74.05	\$56.73		\$58.56
2		\$70.33		\$82.74	\$65.42		\$68.12
3		\$82.99		\$91.43	\$74.11		\$77.68
4		\$95.65		\$100.12	\$82.80		\$87.24
5		\$108.31	Tier 2 @ \$11.79 per unit	\$111.91	\$94.59	Tier 2 @ \$12.97 per unit	\$100.21
6		\$120.97		\$123.70	\$106.38		\$113.18
7		\$133.63		\$135.49	\$118.17		\$126.15
8		\$146.29		\$147.28	\$129.96		\$139.12
9		\$158.95		Tier 3 @ \$16.88	\$164.16		\$146.84
10	\$171.61	\$181.04	\$163.72		\$176.26		

Please email us if you have questions or would like to help: slwaterinitiative@gmail.com