

## **Proposition 218 Notification and Protest Hearing Process**

You are receiving this notice because our records indicate that you are an account holder and/or the owner of a parcel receiving water and/or wastewater service from the Hopland Public Utility District (District). The purpose of this notice is to give you information about proposed changes to water and/or wastewater rates and how you can participate in the rate-setting process.

The District Board will consider proposed water and wastewater rate increases at a **public hearing at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 14, at the Brutocao Cellars – 3500 S. Hwy 101 Hopland, CA 95449**. A majority protest would stop the proposed future rate increases. If you wish to protest the proposed water and wastewater rate increases, written protests may be made in person at the public hearing listed above or delivered to the District Office prior to the hearing to:

Hopland Public Utility District  
151 Laws Ave  
Ukiah, California 95482

The District must receive written protests by the end of the public hearing on August 14, 2025, including those protests mailed to the District. No postmarks will be accepted; therefore, any protest not physically received by the close of the public hearing, whether or not mailed prior to the hearing, shall not be counted.

### **Explanation of Protest Process**

Section 6 of Article XIII D of the California Constitution (commonly known as Proposition 218) requires the District to provide notice of proposed water and wastewater rate increases to all property owners at least forty-five (45) days before holding a public hearing to consider the new rate schedule. If a majority of the property owners, or renters who pay the utility bill, file written protests opposing the rate increases, the proposed rates cannot take effect. To qualify towards the protest count, a protest letter must state that the signer opposes the proposed rates (specify water, wastewater or both) and include the property address or assessor's parcel number.

If the name submitting the written protest is not the property owner listed on the last Mendocino county tax roll as the owner of the property or is not the responsible party listed on the utility account, the signer of the protest must also submit written evidence of ownership or rentership and financial responsibility for the utility account.

At the public hearing, the Board will hear all public comment, collect written protests, and tabulate protests to determine if a majority protest to the proposed rates exists. Only one written protest will be counted per parcel and may be filed by the owner or tenant (paying the utility bill). If multiple written protests are submitted for a single parcel, or if the writings conflict, the District will count a single written protest for that parcel.

### **Explanation of The Need for Future Rate Increases**

The District prepared a rate study examining operational costs, water and wastewater treatment, water delivery, wastewater collection, facility replacement/upgrades, and many other factors (*2025 Water and Wastewater Financial Plan Study*) ("Study"). The Study found that the District needs to raise water and wastewater utility rates to (a) increase the District's re-investment in aging infrastructure and (b) address the impact of inflation on all costs. The

Construction Cost Index has recorded more than forty percent (40%) in cost inflation over the past 10 years while Hopland has not raised rates during that time.

### Water and Wastewater Rate Update Methodology

The updated water and wastewater rates ensure that ratepayers are paying rates that cover the District's costs to provide the service. Details of the District's current and estimated future revenue needs as well as the methodology for updating the water and wastewater rates can be found in the *Study*.

### Proposed Rates Increases

Complete proposed rate schedules for the next five years are shown on Table 1 for water and Table 2 for wastewater. The initial change in rates would be effective on September 1, 2025, followed by adjustments each July 1<sup>st</sup> from 2026 through 2029.

**Table 1: Proposed Water Rate Schedule**

Implementation Date:	Rate Revenue Increase:					
	Current Rate	40% September, 2025	40% July, 2026	15% July, 2027	9% July, 2028	7% July, 2029
<b>Water Usage Rates (per TGAL)</b>						
Usage Rate:	<b>\$1.90</b>	\$2.66	\$3.72	\$4.28	\$4.67	\$5.00
<b>Fixed Monthly Base Charges</b>						
3/4"	<b>\$15.00</b>	\$21.00	\$29.40	\$33.81	\$36.85	\$39.43
1"	<b>\$28.00</b>	\$39.20	\$54.88	\$63.11	\$68.79	\$73.61
1.5"	<b>\$55.00</b>	\$77.00	\$107.80	\$123.97	\$135.13	\$144.59
2"	<b>\$87.00</b>	\$121.80	\$170.52	\$196.10	\$213.75	\$228.71
3"	<b>\$170.00</b>	\$238.00	\$333.20	\$383.18	\$417.67	\$446.91
4"	<b>\$265.00</b>	\$371.00	\$519.40	\$597.31	\$651.07	\$696.64
6"	<b>\$545.00</b>	\$763.00	\$1,068.20	\$1,228.43	\$1,338.99	\$1,432.72

**Table 2: Proposed Wastewater Rate Schedule**

	Rate Revenue Increase:					
	Current Rate	25% September, 2025	15% July, 2026	6% July, 2027	5% July, 2028	5% July, 2029
<b>Sewer Monthly Fixed Charge</b>						
Per REU*	<b>\$60.00</b>	\$75.00	\$86.25	\$91.43	\$96.00	\$100.80

\* REU = Residential Equivalent Unit

The full study can be obtained by contacting the District office. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please call the District Office at (707) 462 – 2666 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

This notice is being sent pursuant to Government Code § 53756(d).