

Westport County Water District

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Dear Valued Westport County Water District Customer:

October 23, 2023

We are issuing a corrected notice of a public meeting regarding the Westport Water District 5-year budget, because we discovered a date/day discrepancy in our prior notice issued on September 20, 2023. This corrected notice sets forth a new date for the public meeting, which is now scheduled to occur at 7 pm on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at the Westport Firehouse.

We are pleased to announce that we are approaching the final stages of our 5-year budget planning. We have been working hard over the past year getting data collected and numbers calculated in order to keep our rates as low as possible, while making sure you as our customer receive clean water and sewer service. With the rising costs of everyday life, we have all been feeling the pain lately. The district has been dealing with the rising costs of supplies, the ongoing battle with old equipment breaking down, and price increases with our licenses and permits to operate. We also chose not to raise our water and sewer service rates at all during the pandemic years of 2021 to 2022.

Proposition 218 is an amendment to California's Constitution that requires government agencies and utilities to notify property owners of proposed changes to rates for services. A written notice must be sent to property owners 45 days prior to a scheduled public hearing regarding proposed changes. We have mailed all our registered property owners this Proposition 218 Notice to advise a public meeting will be held at the **Westport Firehouse at 7 pm on Thursday, December 7, 2023** regarding proposed water and sewer rates increase commencing for 5 fiscal years commencing January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2028.

We do not want to raise our rates. But we feel we need to do so. Our rates reflect the true cost of operating, maintaining, and upgrading WCWD water and sewer systems. To continue delivering the services that Westportians depend on, the WCWD is proposing water and sewer rate increases, effective **January 1, 2024**.

On September 14, 2023, the WCWD Board of Directors approved a 5-year budget that will have a rate increase of 5% for the first two years, then drop down to a 4% increase for the next three years ending with the 2028 year on December 31, 2028. The monthly rates would be as follows:

	Residential	Commercial
Current	\$214	\$336
2024	\$225	\$353
2025	\$236	\$371
2026	\$245	\$386
2027	\$255	\$401

2028

\$265

\$417

Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Water and Sewer Rates

At the September 14, 2023 meeting, the WCWD proposed water and sewer rate increases were voted on by the WCWD Directors and unanimously approved. The WCWD Directors also unanimously approved raising the fee for water use in excess of the monthly allotment from its current rate of \$.006 per gallon to \$.01 per gallon. The WCWD welcomes input from the WCWD community. Public comments on the proposed budget can be made during a special WCWD public hearing on Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 7 p.m., at the Westport Firehouse. A videoconference link will be provided in advance, about three days prior, upon written request.

WCWD Customers also have the right to submit a written protest against the proposed water and sewer rates. The proposed rate increases will not take effect if the WCWD Board of Directors receives written protests from a majority of the affected WCWD property owners/customers.

Written protests must be mailed to the WCWD Administrator-Financial Controller at P.O. Box 55, Westport, CA 95488, or hand delivered to the WCWD at the December 7, 2023 WCWD public hearing, in order to be counted. Protests may not be delivered verbally.

Any written protest must: (1) state that the identified property owner or customer is in opposition to the proposed rates increase; (2) provide the location of the identified parcel (by assessor's parcel number, street address, or customer account); and (3) include the name and signature of the person submitting the protest. Only one protest may be registered per property.

Oral comments at the public hearing will not qualify as a formal protest unless accompanied by a written protest.

Under California Government Code section 53759, there is a 120-day statute of limitations for challenging any new, increased, or extended fee or charge. This statute of limitations applies to the water and sewer service rates and charges proposed in this notice. It also applies to future changes to water and sewer rates and charges.

To submit questions, please email: wcwd55@gmail.com.

Thank you for all your support and feedback.

The Westport County Water District Board of Directors

Lee Tepper
Gary Weiss
Ryan Grossman
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