



Notice of Public Hearing to consider water rate increase

Wednesday, May 6, 2009
Public Hearing begins at 6 p.m.
Western Municipal Water District
450 E. Alessandro Blvd. in Riverside

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Article XIID of the California Constitution, Western Municipal Water District is proposing to adopt Resolution 2600 in order to establish rates and charges for water service to the parcel for which you are shown as the record owner and/or for which you are the customer of record. On May 6, 2009, the Board of Directors will hold a Public Hearing at 6 p.m., or as soon thereafter as practicable, at 450 E. Alessandro Blvd. in Riverside in order to receive oral and written testimony regarding proposed Resolution 2600.

Factors considered by Western for proposed water rate increase

- ▶ 21 percent water rate increase from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
 - Pumping restrictions in the Bay-Delta
 - Decreased Sierra Nevada snowpack
 - More expensive water purchases from Northern California
- ▶ Increase in energy costs for water pumping operations
- ▶ Additional revenue requirements to replace potential loss of property tax revenue
 - Revenue needed for water supply reliability projects



Read inside to learn more.

Drought's affect on water supply

▶ On Feb. 27, Governor Schwarzenegger declared a statewide drought emergency urging water agencies to reduce water use by 20 percent. Drought and court-ordered water reductions to protect the Delta Smelt have led to reductions in State Water Project spring deliveries from the Bay-Delta to just 15 percent of the normal amount typically received. The Colorado River system recently experienced eight years of drought. The resulting decrease in imported water supplies has created a critical water supply shortage affecting us all. Western's top long-term priority is to restore reliability to the system used to bring water from the Delta with an alternative conveyance system, the peripheral canal. This action will result in the ability to deliver the greatest amount of water to the most people, farms and industry.



Statewide water supply cutbacks and water rates

▶ As the entire state faces water cutbacks, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is experiencing an increase in the cost of water delivered to member agencies such as Western. In response, Metropolitan issued a "Water Supply Alert" in June 2008 to help preserve the region's water storage reserves. Western relies heavily on imported water from Metropolitan and has purchased this imported source at a rate higher than what customers have been charged, resulting in a significant financial gap. This trend has continued into 2009, bringing the need for Western's Board of Directors to consider raising customer water rates on May 6, 2009.

Additional factors to consider

▶ Property tax revenues offset part of the difference between the amount Metropolitan charges Western for water and the rate Western charges its customers. Prior to passage of Proposition 1A by California voters, the state legislature voted to move nearly all of this revenue into the state general fund during 2005 and 2006. Proposition 1A places restrictions on the state legislature's ability to take local property taxes approved by voters for local water and wastewater projects. Because of the continuing risk of the state's attempts to take local revenue, Western's Board is protecting ratepayers from the state budget crisis by steadily reducing the use of property tax revenue to offset rising costs. A portion of the remaining property tax revenue is being invested in projects to create new local water supplies.



How does this affect you?

▶ Each community served by Western has varying water sources, uses and infrastructure. For this reason, the proposed rate increase adjustments will affect each separate rate classification differently. The enclosed rate sheet insert provides the proposed rate adjustments to your area, as well as the current water rate, pumping rate and fixed monthly system charge. An example of how a typical customer in your service area will be affected by the proposed rate adjustment is also included. Actual billing will vary with usage.

How are water rate increases calculated?

▶ Water rates are calculated based on the cost of the water, the use of the water (domestic or agricultural), the pumping costs required to bring the water to a customer's service address, labor costs, water quality testing, materials costs and other operating expenses associated with maintaining the water system.

What is Western doing to offset the rising cost of scarce imported water?

▶ The District is working with member agencies to implement the Integrated Regional Water Management and Water Use Efficiency master plans.

▶ Western provides rebates for installing water efficient devices such as rotating sprinkler nozzles and high efficiency toilets. We're also targeting high-volume water users with water saving projects such as direct installation of "smart" irrigation controllers.

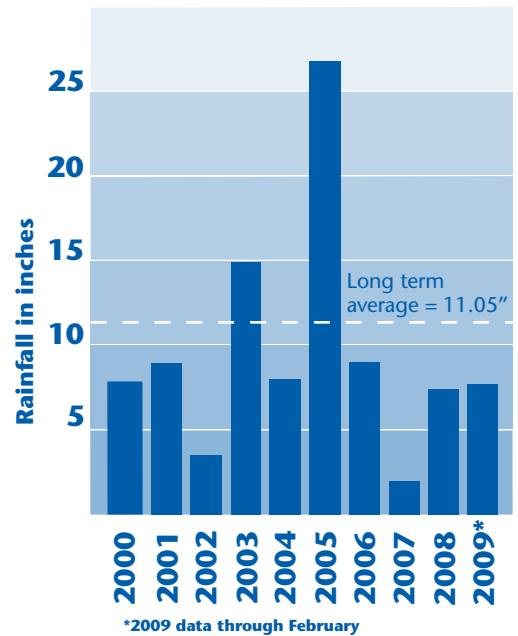
▶ The District is upgrading its Western Water Recycling Facility that will increase recycled water supply for large landscapes such as golf courses, school fields, Riverside National Cemetery and new users.

▶ Western is expanding facilities and forging partnerships to increase desalted groundwater supplies.

▶ Western is working to build the Riverside-Corona Feeder, a project that will deliver water conserved in San Bernardino County groundwater basins during wet years to our service area in dry times.

▶ The District is working to establish an allocated tiered rate structure where each customer will receive a personalized water budget based on household use and landscape size.

Average annual rainfall for western Riverside County



What can I do to lower my bill?

▶ Outdoor landscaping is the largest component of typical residential water use, and accounts for a significant portion of commercial water use. You can reduce water waste through water use efficiency devices, many of which offer rebates from the District. Our Water Wise Gardening for the Inland Empire interactive CD is currently being offered to customers at no cost as a way to reduce water waste in outdoor landscapes. For more conservation tips please visit wmwd.com, call 951.789.5036 or e-mail water@wmwd.com.



Want to learn more? For more information about the water rate changes, including our *Frequently Asked Questions and Resolution 2600*, please visit wmwd.com, contact the Public Affairs Office at 951.776.4519 or drop by Western's offices located at 450 E. Alessandro Blvd. in Riverside.

Información importante sobre el aumento de la tarifa del agua propuesto. Si tiene alguna pregunta o necesita ayuda, por favor contacte con la Oficina de Asuntos Públicos de Western en el número 951.776.4519 o por correo electrónico a water@wmwd.com.

Can I comment on the proposed rate adjustments?

Yes. If you wish to comment on the proposed rate adjustments, you may attend the Public Hearing on May 6, 2009 and/or submit a written comment. At the time of the Public Hearing, the Board will receive oral and written testimony for and against each of the proposed rate classifications for each service area. Upon conclusion of the hearing, the Board will consider adoption of proposed Resolution 2600.

If written protests against the proposed rates and charges are not presented by a majority of owners of the identified parcels upon which the rates and charges are proposed to be imposed, for each separate rate classification for each separate service area, the Board will be authorized to impose the rates and charges. Written protests may be submitted in person or by mail to Western Municipal Water District, 450 E. Alessandro Blvd., Riverside, CA 92508 so long as they are received prior to the conclusion of the Public Hearing.

Written protests may also be submitted at the Public Hearing as long as they are received prior to the Public Hearing's conclusion. Written protests should be addressed to the attention of the Public Affairs Office. Each protest must identify the affected property (by assessor's parcel number or street address) and include the signature of a record property owner or customer of record. **E-mail protests WILL NOT be accepted.** Although oral comments at the Public Hearing will not qualify as formal protests unless accompanied by a written protest, the Board welcomes input from the community during the hearing.



Go to wmwd.com for more details.

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We apologize for any duplicate mailers your household or business may have received. Addresses were gathered from both our customer database and the property tax rolls to ensure all rate payers are notified properly, according to the requirements established in Proposition 218.

Notice of Public Hearing information inside

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