

# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO WATER SERVICE RATES AND CHARGES



**Date:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 5:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Casitas Municipal Water District, Board Room  
1055 Ventura Avenue  
Oak View, California 93022

## PROPOSED WATER SERVICE RATES AND CHARGES

You are receiving this Notice because our records indicate that you are either a water customer or owner of a property receiving direct water service from the Casitas Municipal Water District.

If you are responsible for more than one water bill, you may receive more than one Notice.

The Board of Directors of the Casitas Municipal Water District (Casitas or District) will hold a public hearing at the date and location specified above to consider a proposed three-year schedule of changes to the District's water rates. This Notice describes proposed changes and explains how you can participate in the process.

As required by Proposition 218, the proposed water rate structure is based on a comprehensive rate study that used a rate model developed by an independent rate consultant to evaluate cost of service. If adopted, the water rates will become effective January 1 of the years 2024 through 2026, respectively.

### Why are water rates increasing?

Casitas continually evaluates its infrastructure needs, programs, and operations and maintenance costs to store, treat, and deliver water to its customers. In order to ensure reliable water service and financial stability, the District has determined revenue requirements will increase. Key factors include:

- **Replace and modernize aging infrastructure:** The proposed rates will allow Casitas to complete infrastructure maintenance and refurbishment of pipelines, tanks, and pump stations necessary to convey water to its customers. Most of the water system was constructed several decades ago and requires improvements to provide water quality, seismic, and fire protection.
- **Rising cost of external expenses:** Despite record high levels of inflation, Casitas has not increased its water rates since July 2021. The proposed rates assume 5% inflation annually for the next three years.
- **Replenish reserves to prepare for future emergencies:** Over the last five years, Casitas' financial reserves functioned as intended in response to drought, fire, storm damage, pandemic, and unexpected levels of inflation. However, financial reserves are below target levels and Casitas must replenish financial reserve accounts to be ready for the next emergency.
- **Strengthen water supply resiliency:** To mitigate droughts and emergencies, the proposed rates include construction of a regional intertie project known as the Ventura-Santa Barbara Counties Intertie. The project includes 1.3 miles of new pipeline and two booster pump stations.

### How are costs being offset?

Casitas is committed to responsible financial stewardship and has identified alternative revenue sources to minimize the need for rate increases, where possible. In the last few years, Casitas successfully secured a range of outside funds for capital projects including:

- **\$1.5 million** in FEMA funding for emergency generators to ensure water service during power outages
- **\$10 million** in state and federal grants for the Ventura-Santa Barbara Counties Intertie project

Turning This:



Into This:





## CURRENT AND PROPOSED FIXED MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGES

The new rates are proposed to take effect on the dates shown in the tables below.

	Meter Size	Current	Jan 1, 2024	Jan 1, 2025	Jan 1, 2026
RESIDENTIAL <sup>1</sup>	5/8-3/4"	\$45.24	\$40.77	\$38.38	\$35.91
	1"	\$75.39	\$70.40	\$67.44	\$64.24
	1-1/2"	\$150.77	\$129.27	\$118.67	\$108.31
	2"	\$241.25	\$284.47	\$306.27	\$327.80
	3"	\$527.70	\$729.51	\$850.40	\$985.54
	4"	\$949.88	\$1,511.14	\$1,889.69	\$2,349.29
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL	5/8-3/4"	\$36.15	\$35.11	\$34.31	\$33.33
	1"	\$60.22	\$60.60	\$60.28	\$59.60
	1-1/2"	\$120.47	\$111.31	\$106.08	\$100.50
	2"	\$192.75	\$244.94	\$273.75	\$304.17
	3"	\$421.65	\$628.17	\$760.16	\$914.52
	4"	\$758.96	\$1,301.18	\$1,689.14	\$2,179.99
OTHER <sup>2</sup>	6"	\$1,566.11	\$2,359.56	\$2,871.47	\$3,474.07
	5/8-3/4"	\$32.31	\$32.58	\$32.43	\$32.10
	1"	\$53.87	\$56.26	\$57.01	\$57.43
	1-1/2"	\$107.74	\$103.32	\$100.32	\$96.83
	2"	\$172.38	\$227.36	\$258.89	\$293.06
	3"	\$377.09	\$583.09	\$718.87	\$881.10
AGRICULTURE DOMESTIC <sup>1</sup>	4"	\$678.74	\$1,207.80	\$1,597.38	\$2,100.31
	6"	\$1,400.62	\$2,190.26	\$2,715.53	\$3,347.12
	1"	\$54.71	\$56.85	\$57.45	\$57.72
	1-1/2"	\$109.47	\$104.43	\$101.12	\$97.35
	2"	\$175.13	\$229.78	\$260.94	\$294.61
	3"	\$383.12	\$589.29	\$724.60	\$885.77
AGRICULTURE	4"	\$689.61	\$1,220.66	\$1,610.12	\$2,111.46
	6"	\$1,423.00	\$2,213.53	\$2,737.13	\$3,364.85
	1"	\$68.10	\$65.78	\$64.10	\$62.09
	1-1/2"	\$136.20	\$120.80	\$112.79	\$104.70
	2"	\$217.93	\$265.83	\$291.09	\$316.88
	3"	\$476.74	\$681.75	\$808.29	\$952.73
RESALE	4"	\$858.11	\$1,412.17	\$1,796.09	\$2,271.06
	6"	\$1,770.72	\$2,560.84	\$3,053.29	\$3,619.21
	5/8-3/4"	\$39.76	\$37.41	\$35.98	\$34.40
	1"	\$66.27	\$64.60	\$63.23	\$61.53
	1-1/2"	\$132.55	\$118.63	\$111.27	\$103.76
	2"	\$212.07	\$261.05	\$287.15	\$314.02
	3"	\$463.93	\$669.49	\$797.36	\$944.12
	4"	\$835.07	\$1,386.78	\$1,771.81	\$2,250.55
	6"	\$1,723.14	\$2,514.76	\$3,011.99	\$3,586.50
12"	\$10,179.86	\$18,778.34	\$25,286.23	\$33,850.93	
18"	\$18,923.76	\$28,390.15	\$34,476.00	\$41,622.28	

<sup>1</sup> Rate includes Single Family and Multi-Family Residential Uses

<sup>2</sup> Rate includes Institutional and Inter-Departmental Uses



### **What is changing about how water rates are calculated?**

The proposed rates reflect updated allocations of fixed charges based on potential use of the system, and a gradual transition to a rate structure in which all customers pay the same fixed monthly service charge based on the size of their meter. This transition is proposed to be phased in over a timeline longer than three years and will be considered in the next rate study.

### **How will the proposed changes impact my bill?**

Customers are encouraged to use the online water rate calculator to see how the new rates could impact their bill. As an example, a single family home with 3/4" meter size and water usage of 12 HCF would see a \$0.13 monthly increase in their bill for pumped water service starting January 1, 2024. For a single family home with larger water use of 50 HCF, the monthly bill increase would be \$15.33.

**CHECK OUT THE WATER RATE CALCULATOR AT:  
WWW.CASITASWATER.ORG/YOUR-WATER/WATER-RATE**



1055 Ventura Avenue  
Oak View, California 93022

[www.casitaswater.org](http://www.casitaswater.org)  
(805) 649-2251



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED RATE CHANGES

The Board of Directors of the Casitas Municipal Water District will hold a public hearing to consider a proposed three-year schedule of increases to the District's water charges.

### ***How can I participate?***

- **Call** If you have any questions about how proposed water rates will affect your bill, please contact District staff at (805) 649-2251. Para información en Español, llame al (805) 649-2251.
- **Write** To protest any of the water rate changes, please submit a written protest per the instructions below.
- **Attend** the public hearing scheduled for **December 13, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.** at Casitas Municipal Water District, Board Room, 1055 Ventura Avenue, Oak View, CA 93022.

### ***How do I protest?***

Formal protests must be received **in writing and signed** no later than the close of the public hearing on **December 13, 2023** and may be hand delivered during the hearing, mailed or delivered to Casitas Municipal Water District, Attn: Clerk to the Board, 1055 Ventura Avenue, Oak View, CA, 93022. Written protests must: 1) provide the name of the protestor, 2) identify if they are the owner or tenant of the property, 3) identify the service address, 4) provide either the water account number or assessor's parcel number, and 5) be legible. Protests are public records. Protests submitted by email or other electronic means do not count as formal written protests. Oral comments do not qualify as formal protest unless accompanied by a written protest. Only one protest per affected parcel will be considered. The proposed water service rates and charges will not take effect if the District receives written protests from a majority of the affected property owners and customers.

Pursuant to California Government Code 53759, there is a 120-day statute of limitations for challenging any new, increased, or extended fees. This statute of limitations applies to the water service rates proposed in this notice.