
ALPINE SPRINGS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Directors: Janet S. Grant, Janice Ganong, Evan Salke, Dave Smelser, Christine York
General Manager: Joe Mueller

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING PROPOSED RATE INCREASES TO WATER, SEWER, AND GARBAGE SERVICE FEES

The District Board of the Alpine Springs County Water District (the “District”) invites the public to attend a Public Hearing to be held on **May 12, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., at the District Offices, located at 270 Alpine Meadows Road, Alpine Meadows, California 96146**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. The purpose of the public hearing is for the District Board to consider adopting updated water, sewer, and garbage service rates.

REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED RATE INCREASES

The District is committed to providing the highest quality utility services at the lowest possible rates for our residents. This includes prudent management of the utility infrastructure. The District is in the process of completing a comprehensive water and sewer master plan study which is identifying system deficiencies as well as recommending preventative maintenance schedules. These capital costs have been included in the 2023 rate study and are a major component of maintaining operationally sound and fiscally responsible water, sewer, and garbage programs. Additionally, the rate study will position the water, sewer, and garbage utilities to keep pace with inflation and other cost increases. To meet this commitment, the Board engaged an independent consultant to evaluate the operations and maintenance, capital improvement, and financial policy costs of its water, sewer, and garbage utilities. This review assessed the adequacy of the revenues to operate and maintain the utilities and comply with all State and Federal regulations. Based on this evaluation, it has been determined that rate increases are necessary to enable the District to: (1) recover current and projected increases in the costs of operating and maintaining the water, sewer, and garbage systems; (2) construct capital infrastructure improvements needed to repair, replace, and maintain the District’s aging water and sewer infrastructure which are at or approaching their useful life of 70 years most having been installed in the early 1960s; (3) maintain the operational and financial stability of the utilities; (4) avoid operational deficits and the depletion of reserves; (5) comply with State and Federal regulatory requirements; and (6) meet and comply with annual debt service requirements. The District’s water, sewer, and garbage fees are all billed on an annual basis. Detailed descriptions of the proposed rate increases for each of the utilities are provided below.

PROPOSED WATER SERVICE FEES

The proposed rate structure for the District’s water service fees has a single customer class which means the rates are the same for all customers. The fee is comprised of two components: the base charge and the usage charge. The base charge is determined based on the water meter size which relates to the capacity allocation or potential water demand. The usage charge is on a per 1,000-gallon basis and the three-tiered structure was developed based on the cost of service results which distribute costs to each of the tiers based on usage characteristics. The water service fees to be imposed are calculated to proportionately allocate the cost of providing water services to each parcel based on the service meter size and amount of water used. If adopted, the proposed rates will be in effect beginning July 1, 2023, and will be increased each July 1 thereafter through, and including, July 1, 2027. The current and proposed rates and the annual increases in the rates resulting from the proposed rates for the water service fees are as set forth in the table below.

CURRENT AND PROPOSED ANNUAL RATES FOR WATER SERVICE FEES

	Current	7/1/2023	7/1/2024	7/1/2025	7/1/2026	7/1/2027
Base Charge						
3/4"	\$884.00	\$1,235.00	\$1,426.00	\$1,648.00	\$1,904.00	\$2,029.00
1"	1,474.00	2,062.00	2,382.00	2,752.00	3,180.00	3,388.00
1 1/2"	2,936.00	4,113.00	4,751.00	5,488.00	6,340.00	6,753.00
2"	4,698.00	6,583.00	7,603.00	8,782.00	10,144.00	10,804.00
3"	8,810.00	12,350.00	14,264.00	16,476.00	19,031.00	20,269.00
Usage Charge (\$ / 1,000 gallons)						
0 – 100,000 gal	\$3.45	\$3.96	\$4.58	\$5.35	\$6.24	\$6.71
100,000 – 200,000 gal	4.71	5.02	5.80	6.77	7.89	8.47
200,000 + gal	8.85	8.50	9.82	11.42	13.27	14.21
Snowmaking Rate						
Base Charge	\$884.00	\$1,235.19	\$1,427.00	\$1,649.00	\$1,906.00	\$2,031.00
Usage Charge	\$1.35	\$1.64	\$1.89	\$2.18	\$2.52	\$2.68

PROPOSED SEWER SERVICE FEE

Just as with water, the District’s sewer service fee has single customer class. Customers are currently charged on a per fixture unit basis. The amount of the fee to be imposed is determined by how many units the District charges each account. The District is proposing a change in the residential rate to a fixed charge per account. This approach is more administratively efficient, in line with how charges by the regional treatment service provider are calculated (TTSA) and reflects current wastewater utility industry standards method of charging residential customers. The rate structure for commercial customers is not changed and will continue to be charged on a rate per fixture unit. If adopted, the proposed rates will be in effect beginning July 1, 2023, and will be increased each July 1 thereafter through, and including, July 1, 2027. The current and proposed rates for the sewer service fees are as set forth in the table below.

CURRENT AND PROPOSED ANNUAL RATES FOR SEWER SERVICE FEE

	Current	7/1/2023	7/1/2024	7/1/2025	7/1/2026	7/1/2027
Base Charge						
Per Fixture Unit	\$99.80	--	--	--	--	--
Commercial (per fixture unit)	--	\$117.27	\$133.10	\$145.70	\$159.50	\$164.30
Residential (per customer)	--	545.60	619.30	678.10	742.50	764.80

PROPOSED GARBAGE SERVICE FEES

The District also provides garbage collection services through an outside contractor. As with the other utilities, there is a single garbage rate schedule for all customers. The proposed rate structure for the District’s garbage service fees consists of the District’s administration fee and a fee based on the garbage contractor for collection. Each parcel with service is charged one fee. If adopted, the proposed rates will be in effect beginning July 1, 2023, and will be increased each July 1 thereafter through, and including, July 1, 2027. The current and proposed rates are as set forth in the table below.

CURRENT AND PROPOSED ANNUAL RATES FOR GARBAGE SERVICE FEES						
	Current	7/1/2023	7/1/2024	7/1/2025	7/1/2026	7/1/2027
Garbage Rate	\$322.90	\$322.90	\$342.30	\$362.80	\$384.60	\$407.70
Administration Fee	<u>189.80</u>	<u>242.40</u>	<u>256.90</u>	<u>272.30</u>	<u>288.60</u>	<u>305.90</u>
Total per Customer	\$512.70	\$565.30	\$599.20	\$635.10	\$673.20	\$713.60

PUBLIC HEARING AND PROTESTS

Any property owner may submit a written protest to the proposed rate increases to the District’s water, sewer, and garbage service fees; provided, however, only one protest will be counted per identified parcel. Any written protest must: (1) state that the identified property owner is in opposition to the proposed rate increases to the water, sewer, and/or garbage service fees; (2) provide the location of the identified parcel (by street address, customer account number, or assessor’s parcel number); and (3) include the name and signature of the property owner submitting the protest. Written protests may be submitted by mail or in person to the District at 270 Alpine Meadows Road, Alpine Meadows, California 96146, or at the Public Hearing (date and time noted above). To be counted, written protests must be received by the District prior to the conclusion of the public comment portion of the Public Hearing. Any protest submitted via e-mail, facsimile, or other electronic means will not be accepted due to authentication protocols. Please identify on the front of the envelope for any protest, whether mailed or submitted in person to the Office Manager, Attn: Public Hearing on Rate Increases.

The District’s Board will consider all written protests and public comments to the proposed rate increases at the Public Hearing. Oral comments at the Public Hearing will not qualify as formal protests unless accompanied by a written protest. Upon the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the District’s Board will consider adoption of a resolution authorizing rate increases to the District’s water, sewer, and garbage service rates as described in this notice. If written protests against the proposed rate increases to (1) the water service fees, (2) the sewer service fees, and/or (3) the garbage service fees as outlined above are not presented by a majority of property owners of the identified parcels upon which the fees are proposed to be imposed, the District’s Board will be authorized to impose the respective rate rates and fees as identified in this notices. If adopted, the proposed rate increases for the water, sewer, and garbage service fees will be as set forth in the tables in this notice.

Pursuant to California Government Code section 53759 there is a 120-day statute of limitations for challenging any new, increased, or extended fee or charge.

For further details regarding the proposed rate increases or for any questions you may have regarding the proposed fees to be imposed on your parcel, please contact Joe Mueller, District General Manager at (530) 583-2342 ext. 1. or by cell phone at (916) 826-3912