

SPECIAL DISTRICTS DEPARTMENT



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

157 West Fifth Street, Second Floor • San Bernardino, CA 92415-0450 (909) 387-5940
Fax (909) 387-5542

JEFFREY O. RIGNEY
Director

April 19, 2013

Dear valued customer:

You are receiving this letter to notify you of a proposed increase in either your water or sewer rates. The enclosed Proposition 218 Notice is required by law and the purpose of this letter is to explain the need for the increase.

Throughout the nation, water and sewer entities are dealing with aging infrastructure. Much of the infrastructure we depend on today was installed over 50 years ago. We are not immune to these conditions so we are taking proactive steps that will help ensure that the services you depend on today will continue into the future.

Steps that have been taken and will continue to be taken are:

- We have looked at our operations and made many changes to our organizational structure to decrease costs to our water and sewer districts
- We have ensured that future rates will cover the full operational cost of your district's operations without having to pull from critical reserve funds
- Your district will maintain an operations contingency balance of at least 25% to help cover unexpected costs that can derail normal operations
- Each year, an amount equal to 40% of your district's operations fund will be placed in a replacement reserve for current and future capital improvement projects for the sustainability of the district's infrastructure.

As stated, we have already implemented some of these steps. Others are proposed in the current rates (see the attached notice), and some may take multiple years to be accomplished. Regardless, we are committed to the long-term sustainability of your district and with your help, we are confident that we will achieve this.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey O. Rigney, Director

GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors

ROBERT A. LOVINGOOD.....First District JAMES RAMOS.....Third District
JANICE RUTHERFORD.....Second District GARY C. OVITT.....Fourth District
JOSIE GONZALES.....Fifth District

**Notice to Property Owners: Proposed Rate Actions by
County of San Bernardino, Special Districts Department,
Water and Sanitation Division, County Service Area 70,
Zone W-1 (District)**

The County of San Bernardino Board of Supervisors (Board), acting as the governing body of the District, is considering an increase in water rates for all classes of users, effective July 18, 2013. The rate increase is required to help ensure that annual user fees pay for all operations, fund a contingency reserve for operations, and achieve a goal of annually funding a replacement reserve, at an amount equal to 40% of its operating budget, for current and future capital improvement projects for the sustainability of the district's infrastructure. The Board will make its decision following a public hearing to be held Tuesday, June 4, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at the County Government Center, 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, Board Chambers First Floor in San Bernardino, California.

The proposed increase in water rates applies uniformly to residential and commercial customer classes, as outlined below. Please note that water bills will continue to be sent bi-monthly.

Rates are reviewed and recalculated annually using an intensive review process that includes use of projection models and interface with Operations, Administration and Engineering professionals. Factors to be considered include the level of revenue needed to fund current plans for future infrastructure (repair and replacement); cover cash flow needs; provide reserve requirements; cover anticipated operating costs; and ensure continued system integrity and service delivery.

WATER			
Facility Charge by Meter Size		2012/2013 Monthly Fee	2013/2014 Monthly Fee
¾" meter		\$24.59	\$29.36
1" meter		\$35.66	\$48.93
1 ½" meter		\$62.44	\$97.87
2" meter		\$91.42	\$156.59
3" meter		\$157.02	\$313.17
4" meter		\$241.32	\$489.33
6" meter		\$447.65	\$978.67
8" meter		\$661.84	\$1,565.87
2012/2013		2013/2014	
Bi-Monthly Consumption	Bi-Monthly Fee	Bi-Monthly Consumption	Bi-Monthly Fee
0 – 14 hcf*	\$3.98	0 – 14 hcf*	\$4.77
15– 80 hcf*	\$4.44	15– 80 hcf*	\$5.49
81 hcf* and above	\$5.71	81 hcf* and above	\$6.31

*hcf = 100 cubic feet of water or 748 gallons of water

The Public Hearing

The public hearing will be held at the **Board's regular meeting of Tuesday, June 4, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. at the County Government Center, 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, Board Chambers First Floor in San Bernardino, California.** At the hearing, the Board proposes to adopt a resolution that establishes water rates as outlined above.

Customers may respond to proposed rate increases prior to the public hearing by filing a written protest. A valid protest must contain a description of the property (address or Assessor's Parcel Number) sufficient to identify the property, the signature of the property owner of record, or written evidence that the signer is the owner if he or she is not named on the last tax roll.

Protests can be mailed or personally delivered to: Special Districts Department, Water and Sanitation Division at 12402 Industrial Boulevard, Building D, Suite 6, Victorville, California 92395. All protests must be received by the Division by 5:00 p.m. on June 3, 2013, or it must be presented at the Board meeting

on June 4, 2013, prior to the close of the public hearing on the matter. If a majority of affected property owners file written protests, the proposed rate changes will not be put into effect. Note that no more than one protest per parcel may be submitted.

A Word About Your Water Bill

Please note that in the District's water rate structure, the strongest impact on your water bill is the amount of water you use each day. You have the final say in lowering your bill by simply lowering the amount of water you use. Division staff is available to speak with you about your specific water conservation needs.

For further questions, please call (800) 554-0565 or (760) 955-9885.

NOTE: *This notice was mailed using current billing records. You may receive more than one copy if you own multiple properties or own property under more than one name. We regret any inconvenience.*