



**NORTH MARIN  
WATER DISTRICT**

# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

## REGARDING PROPOSED RATE INCREASES AND RESTRUCTURED DROUGHT SURCHARGES

For the West Marin Water System Service Area

This Notice provides information about proposed increases to North Marin Water District’s West Marin Water System Service Area water rates and charges and restructured drought surcharges. The Board of Directors will hold a public hearing at which public comments will be considered and written protest will be counted before the Board votes on the proposed changes.

**HEARING DATE: Tuesday, June 28, 2022**  
**TIME: 6:00 p.m.**

**VIRTUAL LOCATION\*: Zoom Meeting**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82191971947>  
**Meeting ID: 821 9197 1947 Password: 466521**

*The District proposes increasing revenue for fiscal year 2022-2023. If approved at the public hearing on June 28, 2022, the new rates and rate structure changes will go into effect on July 1, 2022.*

*\*Due to ongoing COVID-19 related risks to public health and safety, the public hearing is scheduled to be conducted via Zoom utilizing the link above. If conditions change, information on a physical location for an in-person public hearing will be provided on the District website at [www.nmwd.com](http://www.nmwd.com).*

## REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED RATE INCREASE

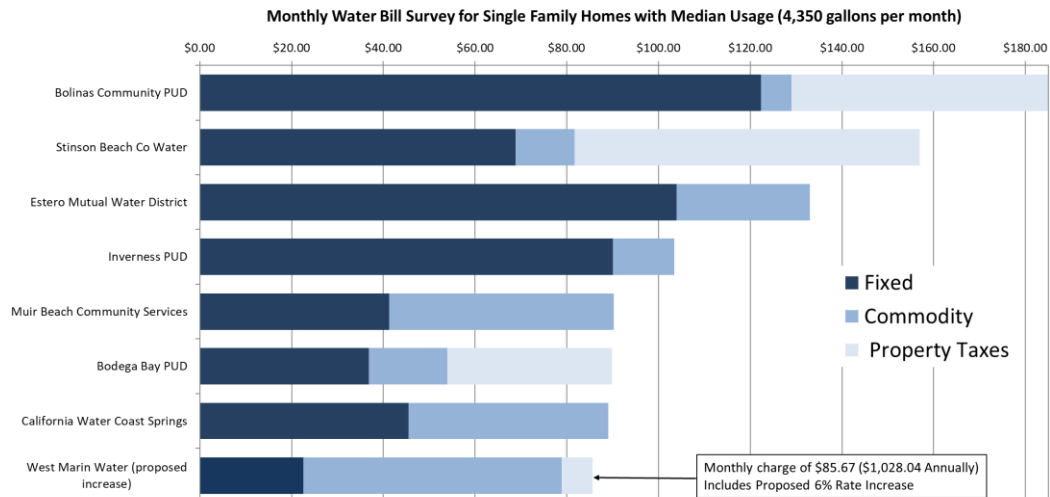
The key reasons that a 6% rate increase is needed are described below.

**Continued investment in water facilities.** The District must continue to make investments in facility upgrades and replacements that will benefit the West Marin Water System’s fire protection, water supply, and aging infrastructure. This will help to properly maintain the service area’s treatment plant, 26 miles of pipeline, 7 pump stations, 13 tanks, 3 wells, 168 hydrants, monitoring systems, and more.

**Impact of inflation on all costs.** The proposed revenue increase is designed to meet all the costs of providing water service, all of which rise every year with inflation. These costs include treating and delivering safe, high-quality, reliable water to your home or business without fail, every day and around the clock.

## RATE COMPARISON

*Our West Marin water rates are the lowest when compared to other West Marin Coastal Area Retail Water Agencies.*



# Details of the Proposed Rate Increases

**Proposed 6% rate increase.** North Marin Water District is proposing a 6% rate increase in its West Marin Water System in order to cover the increasing costs of providing potable water that is reliable, high quality, environmentally responsible and reasonably priced.

*The typical residential customer (approximately 78% of all customers) will pay about \$4.45 more per month if the changes are approved (\$8.90 on the bi-monthly bill).*

## PROPOSED BI-MONTHLY FIXED SERVICE CHARGES

The bi-monthly fixed Service Charge is made up of an account charge and a meter charge. The meter charge is based on an industry standard that apportions costs based on meter size and flow capacity. Most single-family residential customers have a 5/8" meter. Residential accounts that have a 1" meter due to fire requirements, but would otherwise have a 5/8" meter, are charged at the 5/8" meter rate.

PROPOSED BI-MONTHLY FIXED SERVICE CHARGE FOR Potable WATER		
Meter Size (in inches)	Current Fixed Charge	Proposed Fixed Charge
5/8"	\$42.59	\$45.15
1"*	\$104.80	\$111.09
1.5"	\$208.47	\$220.98
2"	\$332.88	\$352.85
3"	\$664.64	\$704.52
4"	\$1,037.87	\$1,100.14

\*Residential accounts that have a 1" meter due to fire requirements, but would otherwise have 5/8" meter, are charged at the 5/8" meter rate.

To learn how the proposed rates will affect your specific water bill, check out the District's water cost calculator, available at [nmwd.com/account/annual-cost-calculator](http://nmwd.com/account/annual-cost-calculator). The proposed changes in rates are based on detailed engineering, financial, and legal evaluations carried out with the help of recognized experts in water rates. The rates conform to California law requiring that each class of customers (residential and commercial) pay their proportionate share of the cost to serve them. **The maximum rates that may be imposed are shown in this document.** Prior to implementing the rates, the Board of Directors may choose to implement the full amount or less, but not more.

## PROPOSED RESTRUCTURED DROUGHT SURCHARGE

The proposed restructured drought surcharges are implemented only when the Board declares a Stage 2 or Stage 3 water shortage as defined by West Marin's Water Shortage Contingency Plan. The temporary drought surcharges would be applied to the water usage rates (but not the fixed monthly service charges), and the amount of the surcharge would vary with the amount of required water use reductions. The temporary drought surcharges are expressed as a percentage of the then-current water usage rate. The 2022 drought surcharge rate review can be found at: <https://nmwd.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2022-Novato-West-Marin-Water-Drought-Surcharge-Review.pdf>

PROPOSED TEMPORARY DROUGHT SURCHARGE STRUCTURE*				
Quantity Charge Per 1,000 Gallons	Normal Supply	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
Water Shortage Surcharge	None	0%	13%	30%
Tier 1 (0 to 250 gal/day)	\$9.41	\$9.41	\$10.63	\$12.23
Tier 2 (251 to 600 gal/day)	\$13.68	\$13.68	\$15.46	\$17.78
Tier 3 (> 601 gal/day)	\$19.43	\$19.43	\$21.96	\$25.26
Fixed Month Charge	Varies	No changes to this service charge		

\*Example Calculation for Zone 1 Single Family Residential Rates FY 22/23

# and Restructured Drought Surcharges

## PROPOSED TIERED QUANTITY (USAGE) CHARGES

The proposed Quantity (usage) Charges has three tiers that reflect the costs of the different sources of water. Tier 1 (1-250 gallons per day (GPD)) is based on the cost of drawing water from existing wells and half of the capital costs associated with developing a new well. Tier 2 (251-600 GPD) includes all of Tier 1 costs, as well as the remaining capital costs associated with the new well. Tier 3 (>600 GPD) includes all of the Tier 2 costs, as well as the costs of the District's conservation program. Usage charges include an **elevation (hydraulic) zone charge** to recover the costs of pumping water to higher elevations.

PROPOSED BI-MONTHLY TIERED USAGE RATES FOR RESIDENTIAL POTABLE WATER						
Quantity Charge Per 1,000 Gallons	CURRENT RATES			PROPOSED RATES		
	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Residential Elevation Zone 1	\$8.88	\$12.91	\$18.33	\$9.41	\$13.68	\$19.43
Residential Elevation Zone 3*	\$9.98	\$14.01	\$19.43	\$10.58	\$14.85	\$20.60
Residential Elevation Zone 2*	\$11.07	\$15.10	\$20.52	\$11.73	\$16.01	\$21.75
Residential Elevation Zone 4**	\$15.04	\$19.07	\$24.49	\$15.94	\$20.21	\$25.96

PROPOSED BI-MONTHLY TIERED USAGE RATES FOR COMMERCIAL POTABLE WATER				
Quantity Charge Per 1,000 Gallons	CURRENT RATES		PROPOSED RATES	
	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer
Commercial Elevation Zone 1	\$8.88	\$18.33	\$9.41	\$19.43
Commercial Elevation Zone 3*	\$9.98	\$19.43	\$10.58	\$20.60
Commercial Elevation Zone 2*	\$11.07	\$20.52	\$11.73	\$21.75
Commercial Elevation Zone 4**	\$15.04	\$24.49	\$15.94	\$25.96

\* Zone 3 (Olema) is at a lower elevation than Zone 2 (Inverness Park, Bear Valley, and Lower Paradise Ranch Estates)

\*\* Zone 4 (Upper Paradise Ranch Estates).

## PROPOSED FIRE SERVICE CHARGES

Fire Service Charges apply to commercial connections with fire sprinklers. The charges are based on the actual cost of maintaining fire service lines.

PROPOSED BI-MONTHLY FIRE CONNECTION CHARGE		
Service Size	Current	Proposed
1"	\$15.09	\$16.00
1.5" & 2"	\$19.91	\$21.10
4"	\$55.54	\$58.87
6"	\$78.02	\$82.70
8"	\$103.70	\$109.92
10"	\$135.80	\$143.95

## PROPOSED BI-MONTHLY USAGE RATES FOR OTHER WATER SERVICES

These charges are for additional services that are offered to customers.

PROPOSED BI-MONTHLY USAGE RATES		
Quantity Charge Per 1,000 Gallons		
Water Type	Current	Proposed
Temporary/Fire Svc	\$15.10	\$16.01
Outside Improvement District - Surcharge	\$4.08	\$4.32



## NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT

PO Box 146  
Novato, CA 94948  
nmwd.com

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SAN RAFAEL, CA  
PERMIT NO 2

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephen Petterle, President  
Rick Fraithe, Vice President  
Jack Baker, Director  
James Grossi, Director  
Michael Joly, Director

### GENERAL MANAGER

Tony Williams

## Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Rate Increases

### Where to Learn More, Get Answers, and Make Comments

#### CONTACT US:

Phone: 415-897-4133  
Email: [info@nmwd.com](mailto:info@nmwd.com)

#### VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

[www.nmwd.com](http://www.nmwd.com)

#### ATTEND THE BOARD HEARING

The Board will review and consider adopting the rate increases at a virtual meeting on June 28, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82191971947>. Due to ongoing COVID-19 related risks to public health and safety, the public hearing is scheduled to be conducted via Zoom utilizing the link above. If conditions change, information on a physical location for an in-person public hearing will be provided on the District website at [www.nmwd.com](http://www.nmwd.com).

**At the Public Hearing:** The Board of Directors will accept and consider all written protests and will hear and consider all verbal comments to the proposed rate increases and rate structure modifications at the Public Hearing. Verbal comments must be accompanied by a written protest to qualify as valid a protest. At the conclusion of the Hearing, the Board of Directors will consider adoption of the proposed rate increases as described in this notice. If written protests of the proposed changes are presented by a majority of the property owners or tenants subject to the proposed changes, the proposed rate increases will not be adopted.

### How to Protest the Proposed Changes

Any owner of a parcel upon which the water service charges are proposed to be changed, or any tenant that directly pays the water bill for such parcel, may submit a written protest of the proposed rate changes. Only one protest will be counted per parcel. Written protests must: (1) state that the property owner or tenant is opposing the proposed increases; (2) provide the location of the parcel (by street address, assessor's parcel number, or customer account number); and (3) include the name and signature of the property owner or tenant submitting the protest. Written protests may be submitted by mail or in person to the District Secretary at North Marin Water District, PO Box 146, Novato, CA 94948, or in person at the Public Hearing (if an in-person hearing is conducted). All written protests must be received prior to the close of the public input portion of the Public Hearing. Protests submitted via email or other electronic means will not be accepted. Please mark the protest: Attn: West Marin Water Rate Hearing.