

# Notice of public hearing regarding proposed rate increases for the West Marin Water System Service Area

**Hearing Date:** Tuesday, June 20, 2023

**Time:** 4:00pm

**Location:** 100 Wood Hollow Dr, Suite 300, Novato CA 94945



**NORTH MARIN  
WATER DISTRICT**

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

**The District proposes increasing rates for fiscal year 2023-2024. If approved at the public hearing on June 20, 2023, the new rates will go into effect on July 1, 2023.**

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

## **Increased 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, 4 wells, 172 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.

## **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 at the public hearing. Verbal comments must be accompanied by a written protest to qualify as a valid protest. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board of Directors will consider adoption of the proposed rate increases as outlined 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 rate increases**

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 to the District Secretary at North Marin Water District, PO Box 146, Novato, CA 94948, or in person at the public hearing. 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.

## **Where to learn more, get answers, and make comments**

**Call:** 415-897-4133

**Email:** [info@nmwd.com](mailto:info@nmwd.com)

**Visit:** [nmwd.com](http://nmwd.com)

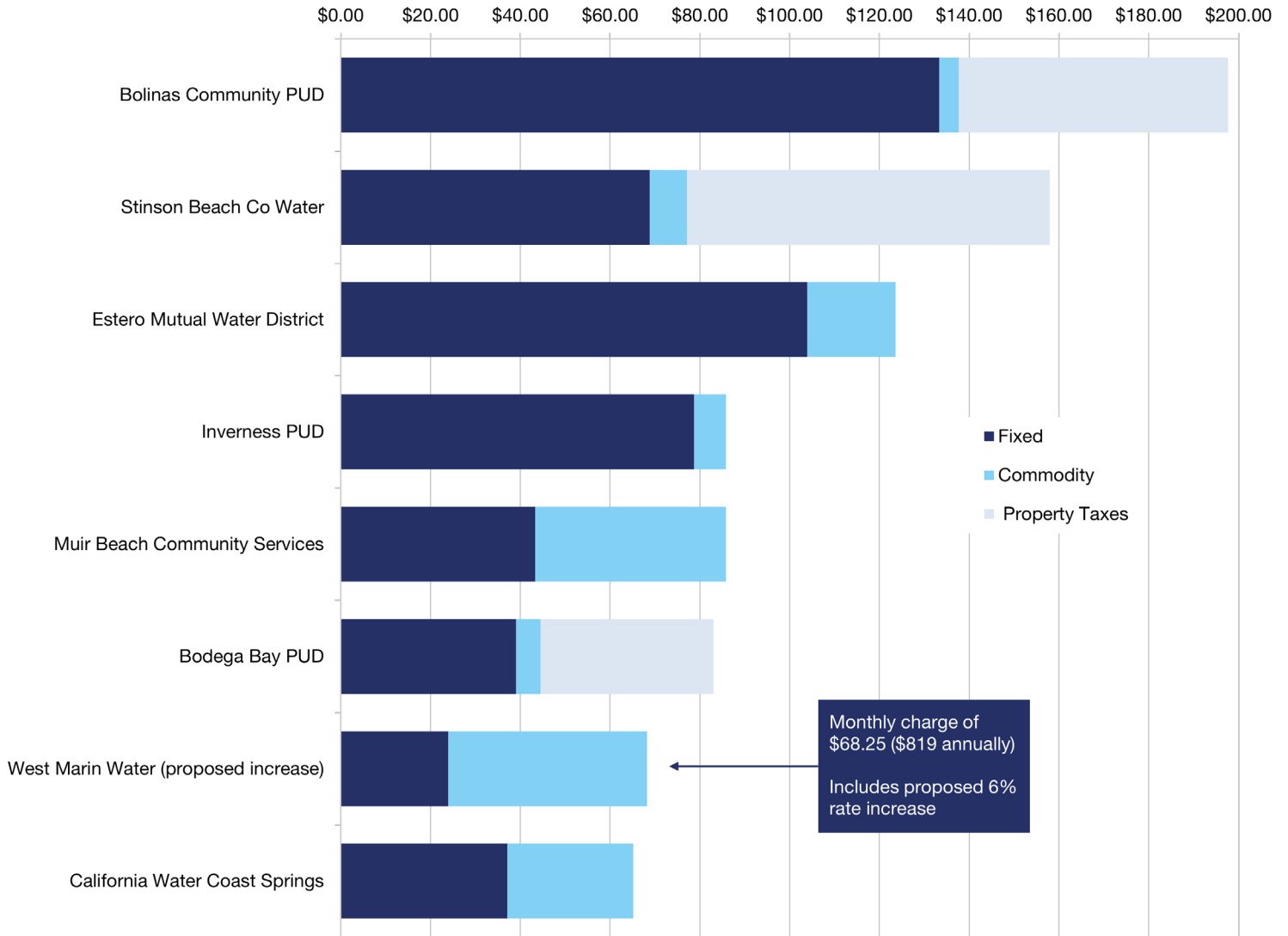
## **Attend the board hearing**

The Board will review and consider adopting the rate increases at a public board meeting on June 20, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. at 100 Wood Hollow Dr., Suite 300 Novato, CA 94945.

## Rate comparison

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

### Monthly water bill survey for single family homes with median usage (3,175 gallons per month)



## Details of 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 \$3.80 more per month if the changes are approved (\$7.60 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.

**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 tiered quantity (usage) charges

**The proposed quantity (usage) charges have 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 financing costs associated with construction of the new well. Tier 2 (251-600 GPD) includes all of Tier 1 costs, as well as the remaining financing costs associated with the new well.

Proposed bi-monthly fixed service charge for potable water		
Meter Size (in inches)	Current Fixed Charge	Proposed Fixed Charge
5/8"	\$45.15	\$47.86
1"*	\$111.09	\$117.76
1.5"	\$220.98	\$234.24
2"	\$352.85	\$374.02
3"	\$704.52	\$746.79
4"	\$1,100.14	\$1,166.15

\*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.

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	\$9.41	\$13.68	\$19.43	\$9.97	\$14.50	\$20.60
Residential Elevation Zone 3*	\$10.58	\$14.85	\$20.60	\$11.21	\$15.74	\$21.84
Residential Elevation Zone 2*	\$11.73	\$16.00	\$21.75	\$12.43	\$16.96	\$23.06
Residential Elevation Zone 4**	\$15.94	\$20.21	\$25.96	\$16.90	\$21.42	\$27.52

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	\$9.41	\$19.43	\$9.97	\$20.60
Commercial Elevation Zone 3*	\$10.58	\$20.60	\$11.21	\$21.84
Commercial Elevation Zone 2*	\$11.73	\$21.75	\$12.43	\$23.06
Commercial Elevation Zone 4**	\$15.94	\$25.96	\$16.90	\$27.52

\* 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).



**NORTH MARIN  
WATER DISTRICT**

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
NOVATO, CA  
PERMIT NO 53

### 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 service charge		
Service Size	Current	Proposed
1"	\$16.00	\$16.96
1.5" & 2"	\$21.10	\$22.37
4"	\$58.87	\$62.40
6"	\$82.70	\$87.66
8"	\$109.92	\$116.52
10"	\$143.95	\$152.59

### 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	\$16.01	\$16.97
Outside Improvement District - Surcharge	\$4.32	\$4.58

**nmwd.com**

**Phone:** 415-897-4133 (Weekdays 8am – 5pm)

**Email:** info@nmwd.com

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 146, Novato, CA 94948-0146

#### Board of Directors

Rick Fraites, President

Jack Baker, Vice President

Ken Eichstaedt, Director

Michael Joly, Director

Stephen Petterle, Director

#### General Manager

Tony Williams