

Notice of public hearing regarding proposed rate increases and rate structure changes for the West Marin Water Service Area

Hearing Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Time: 4:00pm

Location: 999 Rush Creek Place, Novato, CA 94945



**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**

This Notice provides information about proposed increases to North Marin Water District's West Marin Service Area water rates and proposed rate structure modifications. The Board of Directors will hold a public hearing to consider public comments before voting on the proposed changes.

The District proposes increasing rates and updating the water rate structure for a five-year period starting with Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026.

If approved at the public hearing on June 17, 2025, the new rates and rate structure changes will go into effect on July 1, 2025.

Where to learn more, get answers, and make comments

Call: 415-897-4133

Email: info@nmwd.com

Visit: nmwd.com or nmwd.com/wmrates2025

Attend the board hearing

The Board of Directors will review and consider adopting the rate increases at a public meeting on June 17, 2025, at 4:00pm at 999 Rush Creek Place in Novato.

In FY 25/26, the typical residential customer (approximately 55% of all customers) may pay about \$25.58 more bimonthly if the changes are approved (\$12.79 per month).

Critical Upgrades to the West Marin Water System

The West Marin Water System requires significant infrastructure improvements to ensure continued and reliable service. Key projects include:

- **Pipeline Upgrades Due to Bridge Replacements:** Our pipelines are located on two bridges that are being replaced by other agencies. As a result, we are required to upgrade these pipelines to accommodate the bridge projects.
- **Storage Tank Replacement:** Aging redwood storage tanks, which are vulnerable to fire damage, will be replaced.
- **Water Treatment Plant Upgrade:** The existing treatment plant has reached the end of its useful life and will be replaced to ensure safe and consistent water quality.
- **System-Wide Infrastructure Renewal:** The water system has reached the end of its 50-year lifespan, necessitating critical upgrades to maintain service reliability.



Lagunitas Creek Bridge

Proposed tiered quantity (usage) charges

Residential customers will continue to pay tiered quantity (usage) charges made up of two tiers that reflect the cost of managing West Marin’s limited water resources.

Tier 1 is based on North Marin Water District’s standard costs to deliver water. Tier 2 includes all of Tier 1 costs, as well as costs associated with managing West Marin’s marginal water resources such as the cost of the conservation program. Usage charges include a **hydraulic zone charge** to recover the costs of pumping water to various locations within the service area.

Current Rates		Effective July 1, 2025	Effective July 1, 2026	Effective July 1, 2027	Effective July 1, 2028	Effective July 1, 2029
Residential quantity charges (per 1,000 gallons)*						
Tier 1	\$10.57	\$13.70	\$16.30	\$19.40	\$23.09	\$26.55
Tier 2	\$15.37	\$17.76	\$21.14	\$25.16	\$29.94	\$34.43
Tier 3	\$21.83	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Commercial, industrial, institutional, and irrigation quantity charges (per 1,000 gallons)						
Uniform	Winter - \$10.57 Summer - \$21.83	\$14.49	\$17.25	\$20.53	\$24.43	\$28.09
Other quantity charges (per 1,000 gallons)						
Temporary Meter	\$17.98	\$20.59	\$24.50	\$29.16	\$34.70	\$39.91
Hydraulic zone charge (per 1,000 gallons)						
Zone 2	\$2.61	\$2.83	\$3.37	\$4.01	\$4.77	\$5.49
Zone 3	\$1.32	\$0.99	\$1.18	\$1.40	\$1.67	\$1.92
Zone 4	\$7.34	\$9.01	\$10.72	\$12.76	\$15.18	\$17.46

* Tier 1 allocation is the first 250 gallons per day (gpd) per dwelling unit and Tier 2 allocation is greater than 251 gallons per day (gpd). Tier 3 will be eliminated effective July 1, 2025.

Proposed bimonthly fixed service charges

The bimonthly fixed service charge is made up of an account charge and a meter charge. The meter charge is assigned based on meter size. 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.

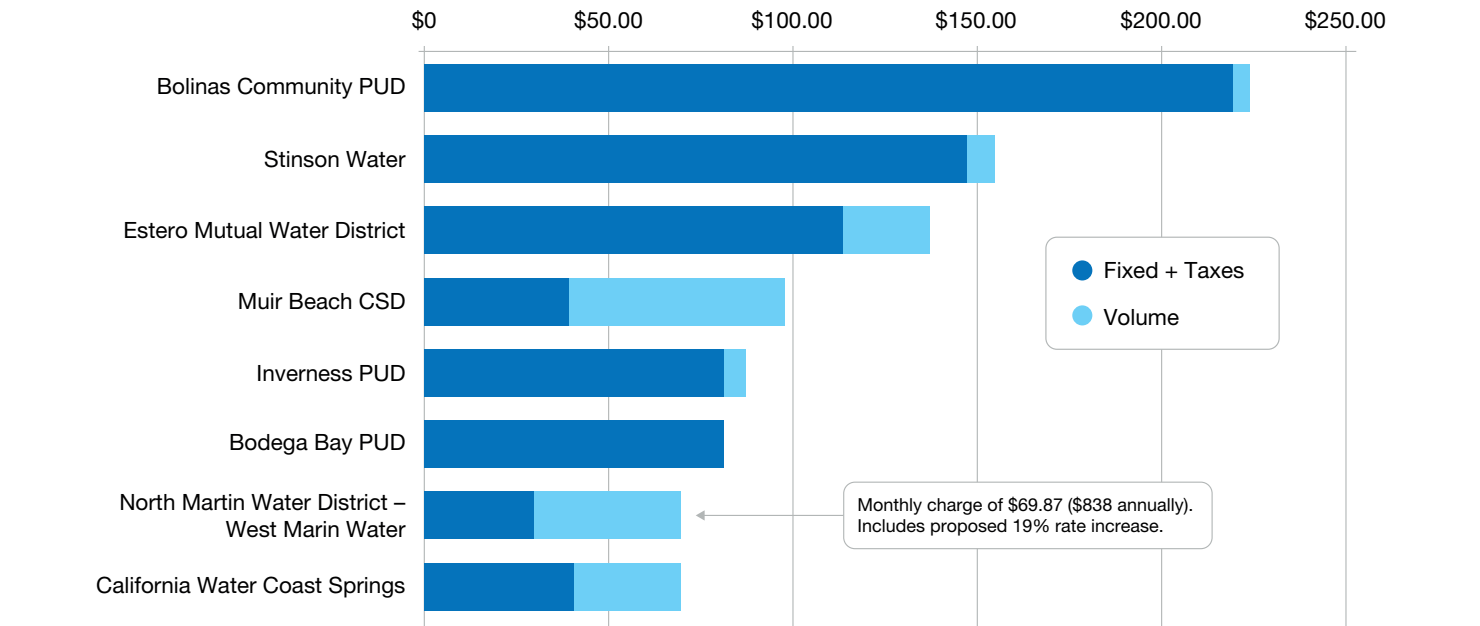
Current Rates		Effective July 1, 2025	Effective July 1, 2026	Effective July 1, 2027	Effective July 1, 2028	Effective July 1, 2029
Potable water bimonthly service charge						
5/8"	\$50.73	\$59.60	\$70.92	\$84.39	\$100.42	\$115.48
1"	\$124.80	\$144.55	\$172.01	\$204.69	\$243.58	\$280.12
1 1/2"	\$248.29	\$286.12	\$340.48	\$405.17	\$482.15	\$554.47
2"	\$396.46	\$456.01	\$542.65	\$645.75	\$768.44	\$883.71
3"	\$791.60	\$909.05	\$1,081.77	\$1,287.31	\$1,531.90	\$1,761.69
4"	\$1,236.12	\$1,418.72	\$1,688.28	\$2,009.05	\$2,390.77	\$2,749.39
Proposed bimonthly private fire service charge						
1"	\$17.98	\$20.15	\$21.36	\$22.21	\$23.10	\$24.02
2"	\$23.71	\$26.56	\$28.15	\$29.28	\$30.45	\$31.67
4"	\$66.15	\$74.14	\$78.59	\$81.73	\$85.00	\$88.40
6"	\$92.92	\$104.16	\$110.41	\$114.83	\$119.42	\$124.20
8"	\$123.51	\$138.43	\$146.74	\$152.61	\$158.71	\$165.06
10"	\$161.74	\$181.29	\$192.17	\$199.86	\$207.85	\$216.17

Rate comparison

In FY 2025/26, the water bill for single-family homes with median water usage West Marin water rates will be the second lowest when compared to the other West Marin coastal area retail water agencies show in the figure below.

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.

Water bill survey* for single-family homes with median usage (2,930 gallons per month)



*Survey results as of March 2025 using data available at the time the survey was compiled. Actual rates and comparisons may change.

Reasons for the proposed rate structure changes:

The District regularly reviews its water rate structure to ensure that each residential and commercial, industrial, institutional, and irrigation customer continues to pay their fair and proportional share of costs. The cost for serving each type of customer varies over time because of changes in customer water use, state regulations, service costs, and other factors.

Proposed rate increases

North Marin Water District is proposing a five-year schedule of rate increases to cover the increasing costs of providing quality water service to our West Marin Service Area customers. The District engaged experienced rate consultant Hildebrand Consulting to review its water rates for the West Marin Water Service Area. The proposed changes to the water rates and structure are based on the recommendations of the consultant and will ensure that each customer pay their proportionate share of the cost to provide them water, as required by law.

Replacement of commercial, industrial, and irrigation customers seasonal usage rates with a year-round uniform rate

An additional structural change for commercial, industrial, and irrigation customers involves replacing the current seasonal quantity charges (higher rates during summer months) with a uniform rate that will be effective during all months.

Reasons for the proposed rate increase:

The majority of the District’s West Marin water system infrastructure, including the treatment system, pipelines, pump stations and storage tanks is reaching the end of its useful life. The District has developed a 20-year capital improvement program that includes upgrades and replacements that benefit fire protection, water supply and the delivery of water to each customer. This long-term investment plan will help ensure the current and future resiliency of the system’s 26 miles of pipeline, 7 pump stations, 13 storage tanks, 172 hydrants, treatment plant and 4 supply wells.

Impact of inflation on all costs

The proposed rate increases are designed to cover 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.



**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**

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Public Hearing on Proposed Water Rate Charges June 17, 2025

The Board of Directors welcomes input from the community regarding the proposed water rate changes. At the public hearing, the Board will review all written protests and listen to verbal comments from the public.

To count as a valid protest, verbal comments must be accompanied by a written protest. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board will decide whether to adopt the proposed rate changes as outlined in this notice. If a majority of affected property owners or tenants submit written protests, the proposed rate changes will not be adopted.

How to submit a protest to the proposed rate increases

If you are the owner of the property or are a tenant who directly pays the water bill for a parcel affected by the proposed rate changes, you have the right to submit a written protest. Only one protest per parcel will be counted.

To be valid written protests must: (1) clearly state that the property owner or tenant is opposing the proposed increases; (2) include 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. You can submit your protest in person at the public hearing or by mail to:

North Marin Water District
Attn: West Marin Water Rate Hearing
PO Box 146, Novato, CA 94948-0146

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.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 53759(d) there is a 120-day statute of limitation for any challenge to the new, increased or extended fee or charge.

nmwd.com/wmrates2025

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

Email: info@nmwd.com

Website: nmwd.com

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

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