



NOTICE of PUBLIC HEARING on PROPOSED WATER RATE ADJUSTMENTS

A Public Hearing will be held on March 13, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors Chambers at 44 N. San Joaquin Street, 6th Floor in Stockton, California for consideration of proposed revisions to the County Service Area 46 (CSA 46) water rates. During the public hearing, interested persons may present verbal or written input to the Board on the proposed rates. If a majority protest does not exist, the Board will be asked to approve the water rate revisions effective with the 2012-13 property tax statements. The new metered water rates will become effective in July 2012, and billing will commence the following month.

A property owner may file a written protest through the mail or hand deliver to the Clerk of the Board prior to the close of the Public Hearing. All protests must identify the affected property with the street address or Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) & if being submitted other than at the public hearing, must be received by the Public Works Dept by close of business March 12, 2012 in order to be included in the tally.

Mail to:

San Joaquin County Public Works
Attn: CIE Division
PO Box 1810
Stockton, CA 95201-1810

or

Hand-deliver to:

San Joaquin County Public Works
Attn: CIE Division
1810 E Hazelton Ave in Stockton, Ca

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why am I receiving this notice?

Over the past two years the County has been installing water meters on all properties within **CSA 46** so that it can begin billing customers based on their actual water use. Property owners are being informed of a public hearing regarding the establishment of metered water rates and the corresponding **reduction** in the annual fixed rate charged for water. Details of the public hearing are on the left hand column of this page.

Why are rate adjustments necessary?

Historically, property owners have paid a flat rate for water service regardless of the amount of water actually used. In order to improve rate equity and adequately fund the district's costs for providing water service, a combined rate structure consisting of a fixed rate and a variable rate (based on water consumption) is being proposed. Establishment of annual adjustment factor of up to 3%, if needed, is also proposed effective in fiscal year 2013-14. This provides the district with the flexibility to offset minor operating cost increases without incurring the additional costs that are associated with the formal notice and hearing processes.

Proposed rates for a typical single family dwelling:

Description	Current 2011-12	Proposed 2012-13
Annual water service charge _{1,2}	\$1,517	\$848
Metered water rate ₁ (per 1,000 gallons)	\$0	\$1.03
1. Proposed rates include an annual adjustment factor of up to 3% for future water service charges effective in 2013-14, if needed. 2. Annual charges to property owners are expressed as a Single Family Equivalent (SFE) unit which refers to the benefit a typical single family dwelling would receive.		

How is my rate calculated?

The annual fixed rate, based upon property type, provides funding for costs that do not vary with usage. The metered water rate was determined based on a study of your district's water consumption and the variable costs to provide the water. The metered rate applies to each 1,000 gallons of water used (obtained from meter readings). An Engineer's Report, which shows the methodology used to determine the water service charges, can be reviewed at the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and at the office of the Public Works Department, or obtained from the County's website at www.sjgov.org/pubworks/.

How will I be charged for my water?

If the rates are approved, meter readings will begin in July of 2012 and monthly billings will be mailed out in August.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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The annual water service charges will be reflected on the 2012-13 property tax statements, which are typically mailed to property owners in October.

What do rates pay for?

Revenues from your water rates pay for the day to day operations of the water system in compliance with state drinking water standards. Additionally, the funds pay for needed capital improvement projects and reserves to replace or rehabilitate aging water system components.

When was the last time rates were adjusted?

Water rates for CSA 46 were last adjusted in fiscal year 2007-08.

What is the District's financial status?

Your water system is 23 years old and has a replacement value of approximately \$9.3M. Assuming a 50 year life for the major system components, the district should have accumulated approximately \$4.2M in its replacement reserves, as opposed to \$38,000 as of June 2011. The proposed rates include incremental funding to build the district's capital replacement reserves over a period of years.

What are the benefits of water meters?

By metering water consumption and billing customers based on that consumption, everyone pays only for what they use with an incentive to conserve water, which is our most precious natural resource. In addition, water meters are an efficient tool for detecting water leaks on your property.

What happens if the meter breaks or malfunctions? Am I responsible?

Unless the damage is caused by the property owner (or resident), the district is responsible for repair and replacement costs.

What if I think the consumption recorded on my monthly water billing is not accurate?

For questions regarding your meter or readings, call the Public Works Utilities Division at (209) 468-3090. For questions regarding your bill, call the Public Works Fiscal Division at (209) 468-3009.

What do I need to do with the attached Information Sheet for New Water Service?

You need to complete the Information Sheet to assure the appropriate person is billed for the property's water usage. When the property owner is not the resident of the property, the responsible party will need to be indicated on the Information Sheet to assure we have the appropriate billing information. Please return the Information Sheet to the Public Works Department by June 1, 2012.

You may either hand deliver to our office at 1810 E Hazelton Ave, in Stockton Ca or mail to:

San Joaquin County Public Works Department
PO Box 1810
Stockton, CA 95201-1810

Where can I obtain additional information?

If you have any questions regarding the proposed rate adjustments or this process, please call Alicia Albright at (209) 953-7150 between the hours of 8:00 am & 4:00 pm., or visit the County's website at www.sjgov.org/pubworks/.