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Assistant Director

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Increase of Water Rates For County Service Area 70 W-4 (Pioneertown)

Dear Property Owner:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to State law (Proposition 218), San Bernardino County, County Service Area 70 W-4 Pioneertown (CSA 70 W-4) Board of Supervisors (Board) will conduct a public hearing on March 28, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the Covington Chambers, First Floor, 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, San Bernardino, California, as part of its regularly scheduled meeting, to consider proposed increases to rates charged for water services. The Board will hold a public hearing under Article XIID of the California Constitution and will mail (or cause to be mailed) this notice at least 45 days prior to the public hearing. This notice is sent to all property owners upon which rates are proposed within CSA 70 W-4.

While CSA 70 W-4 continually strives for cost efficiency and the maximization of assets, it also needs to keep pace with inflation, labor, material, and other operational cost increases, including compliance with State imposed regulations. All revenue generated from customer water bills is used to pay for the ongoing operation, maintenance, repair, and replacement of the existing water system. The last rate increase was applied to CSA 70 W-4 in fiscal year 2014/2015. By State law, CSA 70 W-4 may not collect more revenue than is necessary to recover services costs. The proposed rate increase of 3.5% aligns with California CPI to offset rising costs. If approved, the adjusted rates would commence July 1, 2023, and adjust annually thereafter on July 1st of the following year.

The CSA 70 W-4 water charge consists of two components: a fixed monthly charge (referred to as a facility charge) and a variable charge (referred to as a consumption charge). The facility charge is based on meter size. The typical residential customer has a 3/4" meter. The consumption charge is based on a uniform rate for all water consumed, measured in hundred cubic feet (HCF) or 748 gallons. The following table shows the proposed water rates over the next three years.

Meter Size	Current Rate	Proposed FY 23/24	Proposed FY 24/25	Proposed FY 25/26
Facility Charge	(\$/Month)	(\$/Month)	(\$/Month)	(\$/Month)
3/4"	\$39.00	\$40.37	\$41.78	\$43.24
1"	\$65.00	\$67.28	\$69.63	\$72.07
1-1/2"	\$130.00	\$134.55	\$139.26	\$144.13
2"	\$208.00	\$215.28	\$222.81	\$230.61
3"	\$416.00	\$430.56	\$445.63	\$461.23
4"	\$650.00	\$672.75	\$696.30	\$720.67
6"	\$1,300.00	\$1,345.50	\$1,392.59	\$1,441.33
8"	\$2,080.00	\$2,152.80	\$2,228.15	\$2,306.14

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Consumption Charge	(\$/HCF)	(\$/HCF)	(\$/HCF)	(\$/HCF)
Tier 1: 0-10 HCF	\$6.62	\$6.85	\$7.09	\$7.34
Tier 2: >10-25 HCF	\$7.61	\$7.88	\$8.16	\$8.45
Tier 3: >25-50 HCF	\$8.75	\$9.06	\$9.38	\$9.71
Tier 4: >50 HCF	\$10.07	\$10.42	\$10.78	\$11.16

The total amount of your water bill will depend on the amount of water used. Water bills would be noticeably higher in the summer months when water usage is highest. For the first year, water bills would increase for a typical single family home with a 3/4" meter with median water usage (12 HCF of water per billing cycle) from \$159.42 to \$165.00 or \$5.58 more per billing cycle. **Please note your actual bill will depend on the amount of water you use each month. The example given is an average. Also, the District charges bi-monthly, so the bill will represent two months of charges.**

This notice has been mailed to the parcel owners listed on the Assessor's Property Information Management System. Persons responsible for the payment of the service charges, which includes owners of real property subject to the fee increases (or renters of such property who actually pay the fee) in CSA 70 W-4, who wish to protest the increases can send in a written protest to the address below or attend the public hearing on the rate action to register their written protest at the hearing. Only one written protest per identified parcel (i.e., address/assessor parcel number) relating to the fee increase will be counted. Written protests must be received prior to the close of the public hearing. Any written protests received following the close of the public hearing will not be counted.

Any property owner or tenant may submit a written protest to the proposed rate changes. Written protests can be submitted by U.S. mail to the following address:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
San Bernardino County
385 N. Arrowhead Ave, 2nd Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415

Written protests must be received prior to the close of the public hearing by the Clerk of the Board on March 28, 2023. A written protest must (at a minimum) include (1) your original signature; (2) identification of the parcel by address or assessor's parcel number; (3) whether you are an owner or renter; and (4) a clear statement protesting the specific rate pursuant to this notice. Written protests will not be accepted by e-mail or by fax. Verbal protests will not be counted.

The Board will not implement the rate increase should a majority of the written protests against the proposed increased fees be received on all identified parcels that are subject to the increase.

You have the right to withdraw a written protest that you previously submitted prior to the conclusion of the public hearing. The Board will count all written protests received (not postmarked) before the conclusion of the hearing. The Board will not count written protests submitted after the conclusion of the public hearing.

If you do not want to protest the proposed rates, you do not need to take any action. If you do want to protest the proposed rates, you must provide a written protest as outlined above. If you challenge this proposal in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this Public Hearing Notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at or prior to the Public Hearing.

For more information or questions, please call (760) 955-9885.