



COUNTY SERVICE AREA 70 F


Little Morongo Heights

RATE PRESENTATION

GREG SNYDER

DIVISION MANAGER

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026

A dynamic splash of clear blue water with many bubbles, moving from left to right across the middle of the slide.

“We promote the safety, health and enrichment of the communities we serve by providing essential municipal services along with diverse community-based programs in an efficient and sustainable manner”



OVERVIEW

- Special Districts are created to deliver specialized services essential to health, safety, and well-being of communities. In many areas, communities have no other means of accessing these critical services.
- The Department of Public Works, Special Districts oversees administration, operations, capital improvement and maintenance of 17 water and sanitation Districts throughout the County.
- The last rate increase for County Service Area 70 F – Little Morongo Heights was approved by the Board of Supervisors for a 3.5% increase for 2023, 2024, and 2025. Prior to that, customer rates had remained unchanged since 2013, resulting in a prolonged period without inflationary or cost of service alignments.

RATE STUDY

San Bernardino County Special Districts retained NBS Consulting, a California-based public finance advisory firm specializing in municipal utility rate studies and financial planning for local agencies. NBS has extensive experience preparing cost-of-service analyses, long-term financial forecasts, and Proposition 218–compliant rate structures for water, wastewater, and special districts throughout the state.

- NBS evaluated all water and sewer districts for:
 - Cost of providing service
 - Planned capital improvement projects
 - Overall expenses and revenues
- Final Rate Study Report for CSA 70 F Little Morongo Heights
 - 73.6% increase / year for 5 years is needed to sustain operations

A link to the Rate Study will be provided in the Proposition 218 notice you will receive in April 2026.



NOTABLE INCREASES AND EXPENSES

Labor & Equipment

- Board approved labor increases of **3.5%** per year 2024 -2027*
- Wells, pumps, boosters, electrical components

Materials

- Steel, PVC, Hoses & fittings, chemicals
- Materials Increase **35%****

Outside vendors/contractors

- CA Prevailing Wage Rates up **26%**** from 2017***

* IBEW MOU Increase 2024-2027

** CA CCCI Construction Cost Index 2017-2025

*** California Department of Industrial Relations



OTHER FACTORS INCREASING COSTS

Utility Costs

- Electricity to run buildings, wells & pumps
- Water pumping costs up **83%** since 2014*

Regulatory Obligations

- California Air Resources Board (CARB)
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- San Bernardino County Public Health (EHS)
- San Bernardino County Fire Hazardous Material (CUPA)

*California Public Advocates 2014-2025



PROPOSED WATER RATES

- Rate increase proposed to ensure service levels are maintained and keep pace with rising costs.
- Rate shifts to a single tier rate.

Current Water Rate Tier 1: \$7.30

- Rate Year 1 -\$7.98 (effective August 1, 2026)
- Rate Year 2 -\$8.26
- Rate Year 3 -\$8.55
- Rate Year 4 -\$8.85
- Rate Year 5 -\$9.16

Current Facilities Charge (FC) 3/4" meter: \$65.17/month

- Rate Year 1 -\$67.45 (effective August 1, 2026)
- Rate Year 2 -\$69.81
- Rate Year 3 -\$72.26
- Rate Year 4 -\$74.78
- Rate Year 5 -\$77.40



CSA 70 F PROJECTS

Project Name	Project Scope	Cost Estimate
Master Plan	A long-term strategic framework that evaluates current water infrastructure, forecasts future demand based on growth, and identifies necessary capital improvements	\$181,125
Water Treatment Plant	New treatment facility	\$1,035,000
Pipeline Replacement	Replacement/upgrade of all water mainlines	\$2,257,577

SUMMARY

- Special Districts has a duty to maintain financial health of service areas, and is proposing a modest increase to offset increases to labor, materials, equipment, and additional regulatory obligations
- Continued cost escalation is placing sustained pressure on both administrative and operational service levels, reducing the District's ability to maintain reliability, regulatory compliance, and long-term system sustainability



NEXT STEPS

- **April 7, 2026 (Board meeting):** Resolution of Intent for proposed water rate adjustments went to the Board of Supervisors
- **April 8, 2026:** Department mailed Proposition 218 Notices to residents
- **June 9, 2026 (Board meeting):** Conduct Public Hearing and Majority Protest Tabulation (If majority protest does not exist, process will move forward)
- **June 23, 2026 (Board meeting):** Adoption of ordinance implementing revised rates
- **August 1, 2026:** Proposed revised rates go into effect





**THANK
YOU**