

# NOTICE

TO PROPERTY OWNERS AND PRIMARY RATE PAYERS REGARDING A

## PUBLIC HEARING

ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO WATER AND SEWER RATES  
FOR THE HILMAR COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

TO BE HELD:

Tuesday, May 26, 2026, 5:30 P.M.

AT:

Hilmar Grange Hall  
8188 Lander Avenue  
Hilmar, California

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Hilmar County Water District ("District") will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.**, on proposed changes to the District's water and sewer service rates, and to hear and consider all comments and protests thereto. The public hearing will be held at the address above. You are being notified because you are a customer of the District, or because your property falls within the District service area. The proposed rate changes will affect the entire District service area.

**A comprehensive rate study explaining how the proposed fees were determined is available for your inspection during regular business hours at the District office, located at 8319 Lander Ave., Hilmar, California.**

### **Why New Water and Sewer Rates are Needed**

The District recently hired experts to conduct a comprehensive Water and Wastewater Rate Study (Study) to estimate the cost of providing service each year over the next five years. The Study concluded that the level of revenue currently received by the District is not sufficient to pay for future costs, and proposed five annual rate increases that will meet, but not exceed, the projected costs of operation.

The Board of Directors accepted the Study on March 3, 2026 and directed staff to prepare and send this notice of public hearing concerning adjusting the monthly rates and charges for Water and Sewer service. **The proposed water and sewer rate schedules are shown further below.**

The District's rates must be increased to cover the costs of compliance with increasing regulatory requirements and increasing operating costs, including the cost of essential services, employees, construction, fuel, electricity, materials, supplies, chemicals, and repair and replacement of critical infrastructure and equipment.

The District is mandated by law to deliver safe, potable water, and to collect, treat and dispose of wastewater, all in a manner that protects the health and safety of our customers. To continue to meet these mandates, the District must 1) maintain or increase the level of system maintenance to ensure that the infrastructure lasts as long as possible and is in compliance with regulations, 2) immediately repair any mechanical or system failures, 3) maintain or improve the quality of treated water, and 4) complete deferred maintenance and capital improvement projects. In each of these areas, increasing regulations and costs of maintenance and replacement have resulted in additional costs, which are projected to continue to increase for the foreseeable future.

Rates must be increased to avoid budget shortfalls. If the rate increase is not approved, the District will be forced to reduce costs by reducing system maintenance and needed construction projects. Such a reduction would likely result in unpredictable system reliability, steeper cost increases in the future, delay in response to customer service calls, and potential penalties for regulatory noncompliance, any of which could be very costly or jeopardize the health and safety of the community. In addition, expensive items such as piping, pumps, and treatment plant components will deteriorate and become non-operable, potentially resulting in system failure.

**Proposed Rate Changes for Water Service**

Currently, the District charges all customers, regardless of classification (residential, commercial, school, etc.), a low fixed charge established by meter size and additionally charges a variable charge for each 1,000 gallons used. Because costs of service are projected to continue to rise, the water fund will require revenue increases annually, beginning July 1, 2026 and each July 1 thereafter for a total of five pre-determined rate increases, followed by annual adjustments for inflation each July 1, based on a consumer price index. The proposed water rates are provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1  
Proposed Water Rates

	Current Rate	July 1, 2026	July 1, 2027	July 1, 2028	July 1, 2029	July 1, 2030
<b>Meter Size</b>						
<b>Fixed Charge (\$ per month)</b>						
3/4"	\$23.31	\$23.22	\$25.19	\$25.69	\$26.20	\$26.72
3/4" x 1"	\$23.31	\$23.22	\$25.19	\$25.69	\$26.20	\$26.72
1"	\$25.82	\$25.54	\$27.71	\$28.26	\$28.83	\$29.41
1.5"	\$29.13	\$28.64	\$31.07	\$31.69	\$32.32	\$32.97
2"	\$38.28	\$37.16	\$40.32	\$41.13	\$41.95	\$42.79
3"	\$105.64	\$99.90	\$108.39	\$110.56	\$112.77	\$115.03
4"	\$130.58	\$123.14	\$133.61	\$136.28	\$139.01	\$141.79
6"	\$188.80	\$177.35	\$192.42	\$196.27	\$200.20	\$204.20
8"	n/a	\$239.32	\$259.66	\$264.85	\$270.15	\$275.55
Backflow	\$8.44	\$10.98	\$11.91	\$12.15	\$12.39	\$12.64
<b>Private Fireline Size</b>						
3"	\$6.85	\$8.62	\$9.35	\$9.54	\$9.73	\$9.92
4"	\$14.58	\$18.36	\$19.92	\$20.32	\$20.73	\$21.14
6"	\$42.38	\$53.33	\$57.86	\$59.02	\$60.20	\$61.40
8"	\$90.30	\$113.65	\$123.31	\$125.78	\$128.30	\$130.87
<b>Variable Charge (\$ per 1,000 gal)</b>						
All Consumption	\$2.12	\$2.45	\$2.66	\$2.71	\$2.76	\$2.82

**Proposed Rate Changes for Sewer Service**

Currently, sewer customers are charged a monthly fixed charge, based on their classification. In general, residential customers are charged a fixed fee per dwelling unit, while other customers are charged per account. In addition, Commercial customers and Schools will pay a fixed charge plus a variable charge based on water usage.

The proposed increases in sewer rates will be effective July 1, 2026. Because costs of service are projected to continue to rise, the sewer fund will require fixed annual revenue increases beginning July 1, 2026 and each July 1 thereafter for a total of five pre-determined rate increases. Annual adjustments for inflation will follow, based on a consumer price index.

Table 2  
Proposed Wastewater Rates

Meter Size	Current Rate	July 1, 2026	July 1, 2027	July 1, 2028	July 1, 2029	July 1, 2030
Fixed Charge (\$ per month)						
Single-family Residential [1]	\$49.61	\$48.84	\$50.31	\$51.82	\$53.37	\$54.97
Multifamily Residential [1]	\$44.56	\$43.96	\$45.28	\$46.64	\$48.04	\$49.48
Mobile Home [1]	\$38.42	\$36.62	\$37.72	\$38.85	\$40.02	\$41.22
Commercial	\$49.61	\$48.84	\$50.31	\$51.82	\$53.37	\$54.97
Schools	\$49.61	\$48.84	\$50.31	\$51.82	\$53.37	\$54.97
Variable Charge (\$ per 1,000 gal)						
Commercial [2]	\$4.09	\$5.10	\$5.25	\$5.41	\$5.57	\$5.74
Schools [2]	\$3.47	\$4.14	\$4.26	\$4.39	\$4.52	\$4.66

[1] Fixed charge per month per account/dwelling unit.  
[2] Charged based on water consumption.

**To Protest the Proposed Water and Sewer Rate Increases**

**The rates and methodology proposed in this Notice are subject to a "majority protest," which means that the rates cannot be adopted by the District if a majority of the property owners (including renters who are obligated by a rental agreement to pay water and/or sewer rates) submit a written protest against these rates before the close of the public hearing.**

If you wish to protest the proposed water rates and/or the proposed sewer rates, you may submit a written protest and return it to the District by U.S. Mail to P.O. Box 1060, Hilmar, CA 95324, or by delivering it in person to the District office at 8319 Lander Ave., Hilmar, California. All written protests must be received prior to the close of the public hearing. Once the public hearing is closed, no further protests will be received. Only one protest per property will be counted for each rate type (one for Water, one for Sewer), which means that if a property is owned by more than one owner, or if a renter is responsible for water and sewer service, only one protest will be counted for that property.

Written protests must contain the following information in order to be counted:

1. Name of property owner or rate-paying renter;
2. Street Address of the property
3. A statement of objection to the proposed rate increase, stating which rate increase is being

- protested (water, sewer, or both water and sewer); and
4. Original signature of owner or renter submitting the protest.

Written protests must be rejected if the above information is not included.

### **Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies - Written Objections**

#### **How do I preserve my ability to judicially challenge the proposed rates?**

Pursuant to California Government Code Sections 53759.1 and 53759.2, a person or entity will be prohibited from bringing a judicial action or proceeding alleging that the proposed water rates do not comply with Article XIII D of the California Constitution (Proposition 218) unless that person or entity has timely submitted a substantive Written Objection to the proposed rates. This is known as an Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies requirement and is separate from the Proposition 218 majority protest against the amounts of the rates through the process described above.

To exhaust your administrative remedies, your Written Objection must be submitted to the District not later than Noon (12:00 pm) on May 26, 2026 and include the specific grounds for alleging that the proposed rates do not comply with Article XIII D of the California Constitution. The District will respond to each timely Written Objection that raises a substantive issue.

Written Objections may be mailed to the District Manager at P. O. Box 1060, Hilmar, CA 95324, emailed to the District at [info@hilmarewd.org](mailto:info@hilmarewd.org), or hand delivered to the District Manager's Office at the District at 8319 Lander Ave., Hilmar, CA. However delivered, Written Objections must be received by the District by Noon (12:00 pm) on May 26, 2026. Note that this deadline for submitting a Written Objection is earlier than the deadline for submitting a Written Protest to provide the District with time to respond. A failure to file a timely objection in writing bars any right to challenge the proposed rates through a legal proceeding. The District will respond in writing to all Written Objections received by the deadline and the District Board will consider timely objections and responses during the public hearing.

A Written Objection that also complies with the requirements for a Written Protest (see "How to Protest The Proposed Water and Sewer Rate Increases" above) will also be counted as a Written Protest in determining whether a majority protest exists against the proposed water rate increases.

### **Statute of Limitations for Challenging The Proposed Water Rates**

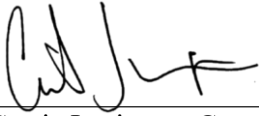
If the District Board adopts the proposed water and sewer rates, then pursuant to California Government Code Section 53759, there will be a 120-day statute of limitations for judicially challenging the rates that runs from the date the District adopts a resolution approving the water and sewer rates.

#### **AVAILABILITY OF STUDIES, REPORTS, AND INFORMATION**

Additional information and analysis on the proposed rates is available in the Water and Wastewater Rate Study, March 2026. This report is available for review at the District's administrative offices located at 8319 Lander Ave, Hilmar, CA and on the District's website at [www.hilmarewd.org](http://www.hilmarewd.org). Not later than May 19, 2026, the agenda, staff report, and proposed resolutions will also be available on the District's website. In addition, customers may contact the District Manager at (209) 632-3522 during business hours for further information about the

proposed rates.

If you have any questions about this Notice, please contact the District office at (209) 632-3522.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis Jorritsma". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end.

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Curtis Jorritsma, General Manager  
Hilmar County Water District

**Hilmar County Water District  
PO Box 1060  
Hilmar, CA 95324**

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