



PROPOSITION 218 NOTICE

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS OF PUBLIC HEARING ON NEWLY PROPOSED WATER RATE RESTRUCTURING AND WATER RATE INCREASES

Ventura County Waterworks District No. 17 (Bell Canyon)

Hearing Date and Time: December 5, 2017, 10:00 a.m.

Location: Ventura County Government Center, 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009-1920

Why are you Receiving this Notice?

This notice is being mailed to you by the Ventura County Waterworks District No. 17 (“District”) pursuant to the California Constitution Article XIII D (also known as “Proposition 218”). Under terms of Proposition 218, the District is required to notify property owners of proposed changes to property-related fees such as water services. This letter serves as notice that the District will hold a public hearing on December 5, 2017, to consider newly proposed changes to its current water rates and rate structure to take effect on December 19, 2017. Any interested person shall be permitted to present written and/or oral testimony. The District may impose reasonable time limits on both the length of the entire public hearing and the length of each interested person’s oral testimony.

Why are the Rate Changes Required?

The District’s newly proposed rate structure will: (1) provide water service based on an actual costs-of-service basis, and fairly and equitably distribute these costs to customers; (2) effectively balance the District’s income with expenditures to better protect customers from rate instability; and (3) meet all applicable legal requirements.

The principle factors for the proposed rate increases include:

- Rate increases by Calleguas Municipal Water District (the District’s water purveyor) of 3.4% in 2017 and 5.8% in 2018;
- Cost of electricity increase of up to 10%; and
- Labor including salaries and benefits increases of 4.6% in 2017 and 6% in 2018

In addition, the proposed change eliminates the current rate structure that relies on highly individualized allocations. These allocations are expensive to administer and have no basis in cost of actual service. Recent California case law suggests that tiered water rates that are not tied directly to cost, such as rates designed solely to encourage water conservation, or individual need-based allocations, may violate the California Constitution, as amended by Proposition 218.

What do Water Rates Fund?

The District provides water services to 729 active customer accounts in the community of Bell Canyon. Its sole water supply is provided by the California State Water Project, through Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Calleguas Municipal Water District, and the City of Simi Valley. All revenue generated from your monthly water bills is used to meet costs such as purchasing imported water, electricity, chemicals, maintenance of the water distribution infrastructure, as well as salaries and benefits for District staff – all of which are needed to bring water to the community of Bell Canyon. Revenues are not used for other general governmental purposes.

What are the Proposed Rates?

New Water Rates for Residential Customers - Under the current rate structure, each residence is assigned a water allocation based on meter size and other factors, and higher usage triggers higher tiered rates. Under the newly proposed rate structure, one set of rates based on supply and peak usage costs will apply to all single-family residential customers.

Tier	Current Monthly Use	Current 2017	Proposed Monthly Use (HCF)	Proposed 2018
1	BASED ON METER SIZE	\$3.849	0 - 10	\$4.04
2	BASED ON METER SIZE	\$5.774	>10 - 54	\$4.80
3	BASED ON METER SIZE	\$9.623	> 54	\$6.01

Note: Rates per 100 Cubic Feet of Water (HCF)=748 Gallons

New Water Rates for Other Customer Classes - Under the current rate structure, customers are assigned a water allocation based on meter size and other factors, and higher usage triggers higher tiered rates. Under the newly proposed rate structure, rates will be determined based on 2 customer classifications and there will be 1 uniform rate for all water delivered to customers in each classification.

Customer Class	Current 2017	Proposed 2018
Temporary Construction	\$5.774	\$5.05
Non - Residential	This Customer Class did not Exist	\$4.90

Note: Rates per 100 Cubic Feet of Water (HCF)=748 Gallons

Monthly Meter Charges

Meter Size	Current 2017	Proposed 2018
3/4-inch	\$6.00	\$14.92
1-inch	\$12.00	\$21.46
1 1/2-inch	\$24.00	\$37.82
2-inch	\$42.00	\$57.46
3-inch	\$90.00	\$119.63
4-inch	\$180.00	\$211.25
6-inch	\$360.00	\$430.48

Monthly Fireline Charges		
Meter Size	Current 2017	Proposed 2018
6-inch	\$25.00	\$27.50

Note: Water used through private fire services will be charged at the temporary construction water rate

The Impact on Your Water Bill

Overall, rates are increasing and your billing methodology is changing. To assist you in determining the impact of the proposed rates, a bill calculator is available at <http://vcpbublicworks.org/water-sanitation-department/water-and-sanitation-services>

How do you Protest?

Water rates are subject to majority protest, which means if a majority of impacted property owners (or renters if they are financially responsible for the bill), submit a written protest against the increase, the District cannot institute the new rates. Protests should contain the following information: (1) the property’s Assessor’s Parcel Number, if known, and address; (2) your Water and Sanitation Department Customer-Account Number; (3) whether you are the owner of record of the property (if you were not the owner of the property as of Ventura County’s last tax roll, please include confirmation that you presently own the property), or a tenant that is billed directly by the District for water service; (4) a statement that you are protesting the water rate increase; and (5) your name (printed), date, and original signature. You may send your written protest to the Ventura County Clerk of the Board, 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009; or bring it in person to the public hearing on December 5, 2017. For further information, call 805-378-3000, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. To view the Board agenda visit <http://www.ventura.org/meetings-and-broadcasts> the Thursday prior to the public hearing date.

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County of Ventura
Water and Sanitation Department
 6767 Spring Road, P.O. Box 250
 Moorpark, CA 93021-0250



IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING YOUR WATER RATES

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON
 PROPOSED WATER RATE RESTRUCTURING AND RATE INCREASE BY
 VENTURA COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 17 (BELL CANYON)**

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
<http://vcpbublicworks.org/water-sanitation-department/water-and-sanitation-services>