

# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR MASTER METERED WATER CUSTOMERS

This notice contains important information about Master Metered water rates. We are notifying all property owners within the Otay Water District's service area of a public hearing to consider pass-through charges and a five-year schedule of proposed rate increases. This notice is provided in compliance with Article XIID of the California State Constitution and the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act (collectively, Proposition 218). Information concerning the Public Hearing is on the front page and at the end of this notice.

The Otay Water District is a revenue neutral public agency that provides water service to your community. Revenue neutral means that your water bill reflects only those charges sufficient to support your water service. Each end user pays a fair share of the cost of water acquisition, delivery, construction, operation, and maintenance of the public water system and facilities.

The State of California is experiencing supply shortages and the region faces probable water supply reductions over the next few months and years. The Otay Water District adopted a drought response conservation program in June 2008, establishing drought levels 1 through 4 that correspond to declared water shortage levels. The District has declared a Level 1 and may declare Level 2 in the coming year. The District also adopted a tiered rate structure for all customers to motivate conservation.

In addition to supply shortages, the economy is having an impact on the costs of providing service to our customers. To continue delivering reliable, high-quality service, while maintaining a balanced budget and ensuring that costs are fairly shared by its customers, as required by law, the District must have the ability to implement certain rate increases and to pass-through cost increases imposed on the District by its wholesalers.

The District is proposing to adopt a five-year schedule of proposed water rate increases to be implemented beginning on September 1, 2009, and periodically thereafter through June 30, 2014. Under the proposed schedule, the average customer's water service rates would increase by an amount sufficient to cover cost increases related to operation and maintenance, but not to exceed 10% per year. The increases under the schedule would cover cost increases in power, labor and benefits, materials, maintenance, administrative expenses, and other operational costs of providing wa-

ter services, including amounts required to meet bond covenants and maintain adequate reserves and rate stability.

In addition, the action would authorize periodic rate changes, over the same five-year period, to pass-through increased or decreased charges implemented by the District's public agency wholesalers, such as the San Diego County Water Authority (CWA), the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), and the City of San Diego. Any increases subsequently implemented by the District would not exceed the cost of providing the service and would be subject to a 30-day prior written notice, but would not be subject to additional hearings or protests.

The first water rate increase, in the average amount of 19.9%, is proposed to take effect on September 1, 2009. This increase would pass-through the increases recently implemented by CWA and MWD and would also allow the District to cover other recent increases in operational costs, as described above. CWA and MWD indicate that they do not expect to implement additional increases during 2010. However, they do expect to implement increases in January 2011, and subsequent years.

The Otay Water District prides itself on being one of the lowest cost water providers in San Diego County. We will do everything possible to lessen the impact of higher water costs on customers while still providing quality service, ensuring water reliability, and maintaining the financial health of the public water system.

If you oppose these actions, you may attend the public hearing on Monday, August 24, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. to deliver your written protest. You may also mail your written protest, which must include your name and the address of the affected property. For the Board of Directors to consider your written protest, please deliver it before the close of the public hearing. Immediately following the hearing, the Board of Directors will consider adoption of these proposed actions. Mail written objections to:

Board Secretary  
Otay Water District  
2554 Sweetwater Springs Blvd.  
Spring Valley, CA 91978

# Proposed Master Metered Water Rates in Detail

## Proposed Schedule of Water Rates -

The following table shows the proposed 19.9% rate increase effective September 1, 2009, and the anticipated 10% annual increases thereafter, which do not include the impact of any wholesaler pass-through increases. Therefore, actual rates in each of the future years below may differ.

Master Metered							
Consumption Blocks (units) <sup>1</sup> Current	Proposed Consumption Blocks (units) <sup>1</sup> September 1, 2009	Current Rates	Proposed Rates <sup>1</sup> September 1, 2009	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
0 - 4	0 - 4	\$1.72	\$2.08	\$2.29	\$2.52	\$2.77	\$3.05
5 - 9	5 - 8	\$2.23	\$2.70	\$2.97	\$3.27	\$3.60	\$3.96
10+	9+	\$3.43	\$4.15	\$4.56	\$5.02	\$5.52	\$6.07

Meter Size	Current			Proposed		
	System Fee <sup>2</sup>	MWD/CWA <sup>2</sup>	Total	System Fee <sup>2</sup>	MWD/CWA <sup>2</sup>	Total
3/4"	\$13.83	\$7.02	\$20.85	\$14.58	\$9.77	\$24.35
1"	\$17.56	\$11.71	\$29.27	\$18.52	\$16.28	\$34.80
1 1/2"	\$26.90	\$23.41	\$50.31	\$28.37	\$32.61	\$60.98
2"	\$38.10	\$37.46	\$75.56	\$40.18	\$52.15	\$92.33
3"	\$67.98	\$74.92	\$142.90	\$71.68	\$104.30	\$175.98
4"	\$101.59	\$117.07	\$218.66	\$107.13	\$162.98	\$270.11
6"	\$194.96	\$234.14	\$429.10	\$205.59	\$325.92	\$531.51
8"	\$307.00	\$374.62	\$681.62	\$323.73	\$521.51	\$845.24
10"	\$437.71	\$538.52	\$976.23	\$461.57	\$749.61	\$1,211.18

Other Charges	Current	Proposed September 1, 2009	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Fire Service <sup>3</sup>	\$28.55	\$30.11	\$33.12	\$36.43	\$40.07	\$44.08
Energy Charges <sup>4</sup>	\$0.037	\$0.038	\$0.042	\$0.046	\$0.051	\$0.056
Improvement District <sup>5</sup> No. 3	\$0.17	\$0.18	\$0.19	\$0.20	\$0.21	\$0.21
Improvement District <sup>5</sup> No. 10	\$0.25	\$0.26	\$0.27	\$0.27	\$0.27	\$0.27
La Presa <sup>5</sup>	\$0.07	\$0.07	\$0.08	\$0.08	\$0.08	\$0.08
Meter Activation Charge <sup>6</sup>	Fewer than 4=\$25.00 More than 4=\$45.00	All occurrences \$35.00	\$38.50	\$42.35	\$46.59	\$51.25

# Proposed Master Metered Water Rates Continued

Monthly System Fees <sup>2</sup>						
Meter Size	Current	Proposed September 1, 2009	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
3/4"	\$13.83	\$14.58	\$16.04	\$17.64	\$19.40	\$21.34
1"	\$17.56	\$18.52	\$20.37	\$22.41	\$24.65	\$27.12
1 1/2"	\$26.90	\$28.37	\$31.21	\$34.33	\$37.76	\$41.54
2"	\$38.10	\$40.18	\$44.20	\$48.62	\$53.48	\$58.83
3"	\$67.98	\$71.68	\$78.85	\$86.74	\$95.41	\$104.95
4"	\$101.59	\$107.13	\$117.84	\$129.62	\$142.58	\$156.84
6"	\$194.96	\$205.59	\$226.15	\$248.77	\$273.65	\$301.02
8"	\$307.00	\$323.73	\$356.10	\$391.71	\$430.88	\$473.97
10"	\$437.71	\$461.57	\$507.73	\$558.50	\$614.35	\$675.79

Percentage Adjustments to Calculate Drought Rates <sup>7</sup>				
Tier	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
1	0%	0%	0%	0%
2	0%	5%	10%	15%
3	0%	30%	60%	90%

Telephone Contact Charge	
Current	Proposed
\$10.00	\$0.00

## Footnotes:

- Consumption is the water usage divided by the number of dwellings served. This charge is a per unit charge based on water consumption. A unit of consumption is equal to 748 gallons of water.
- These fees are based on the meter size. The MWD/CWA fee is increasing to reflect the full pass-through of this cost by the District's water suppliers.
- The Fire Service fee is a flat fee regardless of meter size.
- The Energy Charge represents the cost of energy required to pump each unit of water 100 feet in elevation. This only applies to elevations above 450 feet. This increase is necessary due to increased power cost to the District.
- This charge is a per unit charge and your bill will vary based on water consumption. These rates were previously approved and are included as an informational item and will go into effect on January 1, 2010.
- This fee is charged to restore service for an account that has been interrupted due to non-payment.
- The District previously adopted Drought Rates based on the drought level declared by the District's Board of Directors. The applicable Drought Rate would be equal to the base rate plus an additional amount as defined by the percentages in the above table. For example, in a Level 2, water sold under Tier 3 would be charged at 130% of the base rate. These Drought Rates will be implemented based on a declared conservation level up to the amounts calculated by using the table above. This rate structure is intended to have the least effect on low water users. The Drought Rate percentages are applicable through fiscal year 2014.



**Otay Water District**  
2554 Sweetwater Springs Blvd.  
Spring Valley, CA 91978-2004  
[www.otaywater.gov](http://www.otaywater.gov)  
(619) 670-2222

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San Diego CA



## **Notice of Public Hearing on Master Meter Water Rates**

**Monday, August 24, 2009  
3:30 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room  
2554 Sweetwater Springs Blvd.  
Spring Valley, CA 91978**