



NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE INCREASE

The Board of Commissioners will be discussing a proposed 6% rate increase in a **Public Hearing on Wednesday June 16, 2021 at 5PM** via remote meeting.

Please email customer.service@wswd.org for login instructions.

The public is encouraged to attend and provide comment.

Written comment may also be submitted via email to customer.service@wswd.org.
Written and oral testimony will become part of the hearing record.

The Board of Commissioners is proposing an increase to the District's Consumption Charge and the Monthly Minimum (flat fee) charge. The increase will be effective for billing generated on or after June 17, 2021.

- The consumption rate will increase \$.32 to \$5.73 per CCF or "unit" from the current \$5.41. (A CCF or "unit" is 100 cubic feet of water which is equivalent to 748 gallons.) The effect of the increase on a customer that uses 10 units of water per month would be \$3.20 a month and \$38.40 per year.
- The Monthly Minimum (flat fee) for a standard 3/4 by 5/8-inch meter will increase \$1.06, to \$18.71 per month from the current \$17.65 per month. This is an increase of \$1.06 per month and \$12.72 per year. The flat monthly fee for all other meter sizes will increase proportionately.

The additional revenues will be utilized to support increases in District operating costs, provide sustained renewal of critical infrastructure and strengthen the overall financial position of the organization.

Frequently Asked Questions About West Slope Water and Water Rates

- **Where does my water come from?** West Slope purchases 100% of its water supply from the City of Portland which uses Bull Run surface water year-round with additional groundwater from wells as needed during the summer months.
- **If my water rates increase 6%, how much more will I be paying for water?** For example, if your monthly water bill is about \$72, then your bill for the same volume of water would increase by about \$4 to \$76. If your monthly water bill is about \$93, then your bill for the same volume of water would increase by about \$6 to \$99.
- **Why is this water rate increase necessary?** The cost to operate a drinking water utility like West Slope increases annually along with the general cost of living. In 2020, despite increased operational costs for the District even during the pandemic, the District's water rates were not increased. This year, it is necessary once again to modestly increase water rates to cover the District's operational costs.
- **Will there be more water rate increases in the years to come?** Yes, and for reasons related to the region as well as specific to West Slope. In the next few years, the Portland Water Bureau will begin construction of the new Bull Run Water Filtration Treatment Facility. Portland and all 19 of their wholesale water customers like West Slope will share in the cost of the new facility. West Slope will be paying our share of those costs through our water rates to Portland. The total cost for the treatment facility and projects serving wholesale customers will exceed \$1 billion. Additionally, West Slope has its own share of big projects to replace aging pipelines within the District. The cost to pay for those improvements comes from your water rates.
- **How can I get more information about Portland's projects?** The Portland Water Bureau provides the public with regular updates to their construction projects at <https://www.portland.gov/water/improvements>
- **How can I get more information about the District's budget and projects in West Slope?** The District's budget for July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 can be found on the District's website at http://www.wswd.org/about_us/finance/budget_information.php. If you have questions about the budget, please call the District at 503-292-2777 8 AM-Noon and 1-4:30 PM weekdays or email the District at customer.service@wswd.org.
- **How can I share my thoughts and concerns about the water rate increase with the District?** Besides contacting the District (see above), you can speak to the Board of Commissioners directly during the virtual public hearing for the water rate increase at 5 PM, Wednesday, June 16. Please call the District at 503-292-2777 or send an email to customer.service@wswd.org for the link to the virtual meeting or for the telephone number to join the meeting by telephone.