

THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD OCT. 6, 2026 AT 2 P.M.

at Council Chambers, 202 C St.,
12th Floor, San Diego, CA 92101

Court Ordered Proposed Adjustments to Water Rates

The City of San Diego is proposing changes that will affect your water bill.

The Court's decision in *Patz, et al. v. City of San Diego*, 113 Cal. App. 5th 225 (2025), determined that the City's current rate structure does not adhere to Proposition 218, and ordered the City to establish rates that comply. The City is now required by this court decision to develop and enact a Water Commodity Rate (the fee based on volume of water used) for all customers, and updated Monthly Service Charges and Fireline Monthly Charges (fixed charges)

resulting from changes in the approach to the volumetric commodity rates. The details on how these updated rates were developed can be found in the City's most recent cost-of-service study, and the Water Memorandum Modifying the 2025



Water Cost of Service Study (Stantec Memo). You can read both of these items at sandiego.gov/rate-adjustments or by scanning the QR code. To request a mailed copy of the Cost of Service Study, please email: requestreport@sandiego.gov.

Public Hearing Information

A public hearing will be held on proposed adjustments to water charges to go into effect Jan. 1, 2027.

You have the right to protest the proposed rate adjustments.

Written protests must contain a statement of opposition to the rate increase, the property assessor parcel number or property address and the name and signature of the property owner or utility customer of record registering the protest. Only one protest will be counted for each parcel or address. Electronic protests (email, social media messages, etc.) will not qualify as written protests under state requirements. The City Council will hear and consider oral testimony and written materials submitted regarding the proposed rate increases at the hearing. The City Council may make adjustments to the proposed rate increases in response to oral testimony and written materials submitted for consideration. Only written protests will be considered under the City's Proposition 218 protest tabulating procedures and must be received before the close of the public hearing either in person at the public hearing or via mail to **City Clerk, 202 C St., MS 2P, San Diego, CA 92101**.

The public hearing will be televised on City TV and simulcast on the City's website at sandiego.gov/communications/citytv. More information about Council meeting access and public comment is available online at sandiego.gov/cc. Oral comments at the public hearing will be considered by the City Council but will not qualify as a protests unless accompanied by a written protest. The City Council will consider and may adopt a resolution authorizing the proposed adjustment unless a majority of property owners or tenants responsible for paying the utility bills submit written protest prior to the close of the public hearing. If adopted, the adjustments as shown in the tables provided in this notice will be effective on Jan. 1, 2027.

How to Protest or Object

In addition to speaking at the public hearing, California law provides procedures for submitting written protests and objections. Protests and objections, as explained below, are two different processes and have two different purposes. The protest procedure establishes a mechanism to prevent the City from adopting the proposed rates and charges, while the objection procedure exists to preserve a ratepayer's right to challenge the rates and charges, if adopted, in a future legal proceeding. Objections will be responded to in the record before the public hearing. You may file both a protest and legal objection, however, they must be submitted separately.

	Protest	Objection
Purpose	Serves as a protest against the proposed rates	Notifies the City of the customer or property owner's basis for alleging noncompliance with Article XIII D of the California Constitution for any new, increased or extended fee or assessment
Basis	A protest can be made for any reason, and the protester does not need to state why they are protesting	An objector must specify the grounds on which the objector believes that the proposed rates do not comply with applicable law
Effect	If a majority of owners of the identified parcels submit a protest, the proposed rates will not be passed	Preserves the right to challenge rate increases in a legal proceeding. Failure to submit a written objection bars any right to challenge the rates in a subsequent legal proceeding
Deadline	Must be received by Oct. 6, 2026, by the close of the public hearing	Must be received by Sept. 14, 2026
Form	Must be in writing and submitted in person or by mail Can be completed by submitting the form on the final page of this notice	Must be in writing and submitted by mail Cannot be submitted using the form attached to this document Must be submitted separately
Required	Full name of property owner or ratepayer Specific rates you are protesting Signature Address or APN number	Specify the reason(s) for alleging that the proposed rate(s) do not comply with Article XIII D of the California Constitution Full name of property owner or ratepayer Contact information for agency to provide a written response
Limitations	Must be submitted by a ratepayer or property owner One (1) protest notice per parcel will be counted Emailed protests will not be counted	Cannot be submitted in person or via email Must be received by Sept. 14, 2026
Where to submit	Office of the City Clerk - Lobby 202 C St., MS 2P San Diego, CA 92101	Public Utilities Department Attn: Rate Objections 9192 Topaz Way San Diego, CA 92123

All written objections must be submitted to the City within the written objection period. Failure to timely object in writing bars any right to challenge that fee or assessment through a legal proceeding. Under Government Code Section 53759 there is a 120-day statute of limitations for challenging any new, increased, or extended water and sewer fee or charge. Any judicial action or proceeding to challenge the resolution adopting the proposed fees or charges must be commenced within 120 days of the effective date or of the date of the final passage, adoption, or approval of the resolution, whichever is later.

Court Ordered Proposed Adjustments to Water Rates

The Court's decision in *Patz, et al. v. City of San Diego*, 113 Cal. App. 5th 225 (2025), determined that the City's current rate structure does not comply with Proposition 218, and ordered the City to establish rates that comply. The City is now required by this court decision to develop and enact a unitary Water Commodity Rate for all customers, and updated Monthly Service Charges and Fireline Monthly Charges resulting from changes in the approach to the volumetric commodity rates. The details on how these updated rates were developed can be found in the City's most recent cost-of-service study and the Water Memorandum Modifying the 2025 Water Cost of Service Study (Stantec Memo) at sandiego.gov/rate-adjustments. The tables on this page display the previously adopted rates that were approved by the City Council last year to go into effect on Jan. 1, 2027, and the proposed rates from this cost-of-service study, to go into effect Jan. 1, 2027 in order to comply with this court order.

Water Monthly Service Charge			Fireline Monthly Service Charge		
Meter Size	Previously Adopted	Proposed	Meter Size	Previously Adopted	Proposed
	Jan. 1, 2027 Charge	Jan. 1, 2027 Charge		Jan. 1, 2027 Private Fire Charge	Jan. 1, 2027 Private Fire Charge
5/8", 3/4"	\$40.69	\$40.97	1"	\$4.60	\$4.84
1"	\$65.08	\$65.43	1.5"	\$5.56	\$5.90
1.5"	\$126.07	\$126.58	2"	\$7.22	\$7.72
2"	\$199.26	\$199.97	3"	\$13.17	\$14.27
3"	\$455.41	\$456.79	4"	\$23.44	\$25.57
4"	\$760.34	\$762.54	6"	\$60.30	\$66.14
6"	\$1,760.53	\$1,765.40	8"	\$123.88	\$136.10
8"	\$2,699.74	\$2,707.11	10"	\$219.52	\$241.35
10"	\$5,127.04	\$5,140.88	12"	\$352.07	\$387.20
12"	\$6,468.79	\$6,486.18	16"	\$745.63	\$820.28
16"	\$9,518.17	\$9,543.67	20"	\$1,337.64	\$1,471.74

Water Commodity Rates				
Customer Class			Previously Adopted	Proposed
		Bimonthly Tier Allotment (HCF)	Jan. 1, 2027 Volumetric Rates (\$/HCF)	Jan. 1, 2027 Volumetric Rates (\$/HCF)
Single Family Residential	Tier 1 (\$/HCF)	0 to 10	\$9.75	11.09
	Tier 2 (\$/HCF)	11 to 22	\$10.88	
	Tier 3 (\$/HCF)	Above 22	\$13.62	
Multi-Family Residential (\$/HCF)			\$11.41	
Commercial/Industrial/Outside City (\$/HCF)			\$10.72	
Irrigation (\$/HCF)			\$12.08	
Temporary Construction (\$/HCF)			\$12.46	

Note: The City bills most of its single-family residential customers on a bimonthly basis. This means each bill these customers receive includes charges for two months of service.



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San Diego, CA 92123

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Oct. 6, 2026 • 2 p.m. • 202 C St., 12th Floor

Members of the public can attend City Council meetings in person. This meeting will be televised and live streamed on the City's website. Public comment can be given in person, via telephone or using the zoom webinar platform.

- The link to join the Meeting Webinar by computer, tablet or smart phone is: **sandiego.gov/councilmtg**
- To join by telephone: **Dial 1-669-254-5252.**
- When prompted, input Webinar ID: **160 943 0466**

For more information, please visit: **sandiego.gov/cc**

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR WATER RATES

This notice is being provided to you by the City of San Diego Public Utilities Department pursuant to California Constitution Article XIIIID (also known as "Proposition 218"). Under the terms of Proposition 218, the City is required to notify the property owners of record of proposed changes to property-related fees, such as water service.

This serves as notice that the City Council will conduct a public hearing, at the time, date and location specified above, to consider recommended adjustments to the City's water service rates and charges. If approved, the proposed adjustments will first appear on bills beginning in January 2027. All members of the public are invited to attend the public hearing. Additionally, under California state law, all property owners and customers of record may submit a written protest to the proposed rate changes. Mailed protest must be received by Oct. 6, 2026. Only one protest per parcel is permitted.

All written protests will be verified. You may also appear at the public hearing at the date and time specified above. More information is available online at: **sandiego.gov/rate-adjustments**.



Written protest must be mailed in an envelope or delivered to: **City Clerk, 202 C St., MS 2P, San Diego, CA 92101.**

I _____ oppose the proposed rate increases.

Assessor's Parcel Number or Address: _____

Signature: _____