



BIOLA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Regarding Proposed Water and Sewer Rate Increases

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of Biola Community Services District (“District”) is considering a water rate and sewer rate increase. The public hearing will take place:

Date: Thursday, June 20, 2024
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: Biola Community Center, 4925 N. Seventh Street, Biola, CA

You are receiving this Notice because our records indicate that you are a water customer and/or an owner of property within the District. This Notice describes the proposed increase and explains how you can participate in the rate setting process.

This Notice is being furnished to you by the District pursuant to the California Constitution, Article XIID (also known as “Proposition 218”), which requires that the District notify property owners of proposed increases to property-related fees, such as fees for water and sewer. This serves as notice that the Board will conduct a public hearing to consider recommended increases in the amounts set forth below and in the attachments to its water and sewer rates. At the hearing, the Board will hear and consider objections and protests to the proposed increases described in this Notice. Following the public hearing, the Board will consider the water rate and sewer rate increase.

Rate Study Report: A Rate Study Report (“Report”) by IGService, dated April 24, 2024, describes the details of the water and sewer rate changes and the method used to calculate the rate changes, and the contents were presented to the Board on April 18, 2024. The Report includes the research, reasoning, and analysis behind the proposed adjustments. The Report is incorporated into this Notice by reference and will be addressed at the Public Hearing. The Report is available at the District’s office at 4925 N. Seventh Street, Biola, California, and on the District’s internet website at: www.biolacsd.org.

Amount of Proposed Modified Rates: The details of existing and proposed rates are included in this Notice. A general explanation and examples of rate changes are shown below.

For all customers, all metered water volumes are proposed to be billed based on volume, whereas presently the first 20,000 gallons per month is included with the fixed monthly cost. Further, the existing tiered rates are proposed to be terminated and replaced by a single volume rate for all volumes metered. The result of these changes is more equitable cost allocation for all customers. After the initial resetting of rates for the first year, all water and sewer rates will increase four percent per year during the second through fifth years to follow projected increasing expenses pursuant to the Study.

Single-Family Homes: For a typical home currently paying \$33.00 per month, the water cost will increase 71 percent to an average of \$56.49 per month in the first year. The sewer rate will increase from \$43.90 per month by 27 percent to \$55.64 per month in the first year.

Commercial and Industrial Water: All water volumes are proposed to bill at the same volume rate. The increase ranges from 256 percent in the first tier, to 154 percent in the second tier, to 58 percent in the third tier, as shown in detail in the attached water rate schedule.

Commercial and Industrial Sewer: Commercial sewer rates are increased in proportion to residential sewer; however, the application of sewer rates has been updated appropriate to the service type, as shown in the attached sewer rate schedule. Industrial sewer rates will be calculated individually based on estimated discharge from individual customers into the District’s wastewater system.

Reasons for the Needed Increases: The District last increased water and sewer rates in 2014. The primary reasons for the needed increases are 1) ongoing inflationary cost increases, 2) increasing cost of repairs from aging infrastructure, and 3) the need to replenish depleted fund balances. Please know that the proposed rates are set only high enough for the District to provide safe and reliable service. Specifically, the proposed rates do not exceed the proportional cost of providing each service. If you are a resident unable to afford your monthly utility bill, please contact the District office for resources such as low-income rate assistance.

Details of the rate changes can be found in the Report.

How to Submit a Protest: Protests may be submitted by the record owner of an affected parcel, or a tenant who is a customer-of-record of the parcel and subject to the proposed rates, but only one protest per parcel will be counted. Written protests must contain a clear statement that it is a protest against the proposed increases, identify which utility (i.e. water and/or sewer) increase is protested, and it must include the name of the owner or customer of record, a description of the parcel or parcels (Assessor's Parcel Number or street address) and an original signature of the owner or customer of record. Written protests regarding the proposed rate changes may be mailed or personally delivered to the District Office at: Biola Community Services District, 4925 N. Seventh Street, Biola, CA 93606. To be valid, a protest must be in writing and received at the District Office no later than 4 P.M. on the date of the hearing or, if presented at the hearing itself, before the close of the public hearing on June 20, 2024. Fax, e-mail, or copies of protests are not acceptable and will not be counted.

Procedure for Hearing and Determining a Majority Protest: Members of the public are welcome to attend the public hearing regarding the proposed rate changes and will have an opportunity to speak and give testimony; however, only written protests as described below count toward a majority protest. The Board will hear and consider all objections and protests, if any, to the proposed increases and other matters described in the Report. The Board may continue the hearing from time to time. At the close of the hearing, if written protests against the proposed increases are presented and not withdrawn by a majority of the record owners (or customers-of-record) of the parcels which would be subject to the increases, the District may not impose the increased rates; instead, rates would continue at their existing levels. If, at the close of the protest hearing, there is no majority protest as described above, the Board may approve the increases, as proposed, to be effective July 1, 2024.

Legal Challenges: If the Board adopts the proposed rates, you are hereby notified, pursuant to Government Code, section 53759, that any judicial action or proceeding to attack, review, set aside, void, validate, or annul the Board's adoption of the proposed rates must be commenced within 120 days of the effective date or of the date of the final passage, adoption, or approval of the resolution adopting the rates.

Additional Information: Please direct questions about the proposed rates to the District Office at 559-843-2657.

Proposed water rates are shown in the table below. The total water service monthly charge includes the Fixed Charge plus the Volumetric Charge multiplied by the quantity of water used.

Biola CSD Water Rates and Charges							
	Current Rates	Proposed Rates					
		7/1/2024	7/1/2025	7/1/2026	7/1/2027	7/1/2028	
		Percent Change	New Rate	4%	4%	4%	4%
Fixed Charge (\$/Mo)							
3/4" meter size	\$33.00	-39%	\$20.00	\$20.80	\$21.63	\$22.50	\$23.40
1"	\$37.00	-35%	\$24.00	\$24.96	\$25.96	\$27.00	\$28.08
1.5"	\$44.00	9%	\$48.00	\$49.92	\$51.92	\$54.00	\$56.16
2"	\$73.00	5%	\$77.00	\$80.08	\$83.28	\$86.61	\$90.07
3"	\$163.00	-12%	\$144.00	\$149.76	\$155.75	\$161.98	\$168.46
4"	\$290.00	-17%	\$240.00	\$249.60	\$259.58	\$269.96	\$280.76
6"	\$664.00	-28%	\$480.00	\$499.20	\$519.17	\$539.94	\$561.54
Volume Charge (\$/TG)							
0 to 20 TG	\$0.00	new	\$3.56	\$3.70	\$3.85	\$4.00	\$4.16
20.0 to 27.5 TG	\$1.00	256%	\$3.56	\$3.70	\$3.85	\$4.00	\$4.16
27.5 to 35 TG	\$1.40	154%	\$3.56	\$3.70	\$3.85	\$4.00	\$4.16
Above 35 TG	\$2.26	58%	\$3.56	\$3.70	\$3.85	\$4.00	\$4.16

Proposed sewer rates are shown in the table below. For industrial customers, the monthly billing amount must be manually calculated based on flow and concentration of discharge.

Biola CSD Sewer Rates and Charges							
Customer Group	Current Rates	Proposed Rates					
		7/1/2024	7/1/2025	7/1/2026	7/1/2027	7/1/2028	
		Percent Change	Rate	4%	4%	4%	4%
Single-Family	\$43.90	27%	\$55.64	\$57.87	\$60.18	\$62.59	\$65.09
Duplex or two dwelling units on one account	\$87.80	27%	\$111.29	\$115.74	\$120.37	\$125.18	\$130.19
Multi-Family (per dwelling unit)	\$43.90	27%	\$55.64	\$57.87	\$60.18	\$62.59	\$65.09
Commercial Facilities							
Small Commercial with no food service	\$43.90	27%	\$55.64	\$57.87	\$60.18	\$62.59	\$65.09
Small Market	\$43.90	154%	\$111.29	\$115.74	\$120.37	\$125.18	\$130.19
Church	\$87.80	27%	\$111.29	\$115.74	\$120.37	\$125.18	\$130.19
Fire Station	\$87.80	90%	\$166.93	\$173.61	\$180.55	\$187.77	\$195.28
Restaurant with seating	\$87.80	90%	\$166.93	\$173.61	\$180.55	\$187.77	\$195.28
Public Works Facility	\$87.80	90%	\$166.93	\$173.61	\$180.55	\$187.77	\$195.28
Elementary School	\$373.07	49%	\$556.45	\$578.70	\$601.85	\$625.92	\$650.96
Industrial Rate (\$ / Thousand Gallons)	Varied	Varied	\$7.42	\$7.72	\$8.03	\$8.35	\$8.68
Industrial monthly charges shall be based on the calculated volume of discharge from each industrial customer, multiplied by the cost per thousand gallons shown above to process the discharge. In the event industrial discharge is more concentrated in Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) or Total Suspended Solids (TSS), causing the system concentration averages to increase, monthly charges may be increased in proportion to the concentrations.							
Note: The basis for establishing equitable sewer rates is the cost to collect and treat wastewater applied to a customer in proportion to a customer's volumes discharged. At the request of a customer, or if necessary because a rate does not exist, an equitable rate may be calculated by the District Engineer. Calculations shall be available for customer review and all calculated rates other than Industrial Rates must be approved by the Biola CSD Board.							