

To: River Pines Public Utility District Record Property Owners/Renters

From: River Pines Public Utility District Board of Directors

NOTICE OF INTENDED WATER AND WATER USAGE RATE CHANGE

This notice is intended to inform you that the River Pines Public Utility District (RPPUD) will hold a public hearing regarding proposed changes to the utility rate and fee schedule for properties receiving RPPUD water services. The proposed changes will be considered by the RPPUD Board of Directors at the date, time and location specified below.

Consistent with the requirements of Proposition 218, this notice also provides the changes in utility rates and fees, basis for the changes and how to protest the proposed changes.

Affected Parcels

The proposed fee will apply to all parcels that have immediate access to or currently receive District water services.

Parcel Rates - Year 1 Increase - Beginning September 1, 2021

The proposed change to the RPPUD Rate and Fee Schedule:

<u>WATER RATES:</u>	
Residential Monthly Base Service Rate	\$64.60
Commercial Monthly Base Service Rate	\$64.60
<u>WATER USAGE RATES:</u>	
1 - 3,000 gallons per month usage	\$3.74/K
3,001- 5,000 gallons per month usage	\$4.99/K
5,001 - 7,000 gallons per month usage	\$6.54/K
7,001- 9,000 gallons per month usage	\$8.11/K
9,001- 999,999 gallons per month usage	\$14.34/K

Parcel Rates - Year 2 Increase - Beginning September 1, 2022

The proposed change to the RPPUD Rate and Fee Schedule:

<u>WATER RATES:</u>	
Residential Monthly Base Service Rate	\$69.12
Commercial Monthly Base Service Rate	\$69.12
<u>WATER USAGE RATES:</u>	
1-3,000 gallons per month usage	\$4.00
3,001 - 5,000 gallons per month usage	\$5.33
5,001- 7,000 gallons per month usage	\$6.99

7,001-9,000 gallons per month usage	\$8.67
9,001-999,999 gallons per month usage	\$15.34

Parcel Rates - Year 3 Increase - Beginning September 1, 2023

The proposed change to the RPPUD Rate and Fee Schedule:

WATER RATES:

Residential Monthly Base Service Rate	\$73.95
Commercial Monthly Base Service Rate	\$73.95

WATER USAGE RATES:

1 - 3,000 gallons per month usage	\$4.28/K
3,001- 5,000 gallons per month usage	\$5.70/K
5,001- 7,000 gallons per month usage	\$7.47/K
7,001 - 9,000 gallons per month usage	\$9.27/K
9,001- 999,999 gallons per month usage	\$16.41/K

Parcel Rates - Year 4 Increase - Beginning September 1, 2024

The proposed change to the RPPUD Rate and Fee Schedule:

WATER RATES:

Residential Monthly Base Service Rate	\$79.12
Commercial Monthly Base Service Rate	\$79.12

WATER USAGE RATES:

1 - 3,000 gallons per month usage	\$4.57/K
3,001- 5,000 gallons per month usage	\$6.09/K
5,001- 7,000 gallons per month usage	\$7.99/K
7,001- 9,000 gallons per month usage	\$9.91/K
9,001- 999,999 gallons per month usage	\$17.55/K

Parcel Rates - Year 5 Increase - Beginning September 1, 2025

The proposed change to the RPPUD Rate and Fee Schedule:

WATER RATES:

Residential Monthly Base Service Rate	\$84.65
Commercial Monthly Base Service Rate	\$84.65

WATER USAGE RATES:

1 - 3,000 gallons per month usage	\$4.88/K
3,001- 5,000 gallons per month usage	\$6.51/K
5,001- 7,000 gallons per month usage	\$8.54/K
7,001 - 9,000 gallons per month usage	\$10.60/K
9,001- 999,999 gallons per month usage	\$18.77/K

Reason for Rate Increase

The proposed increase will be used for all aspects of operations of the District, including but not limited to: 1) operations and maintenance; 2) professional services; and 3) capital facility repairs and improvements. Reserve funds must be available for emergencies and for known major repairs currently required to maintain a functioning water treatment and water delivery system.

Basis for Rate Increase

District vendor and service provider accounts have been reviewed with the elimination or renegotiation of accounts, replacement of services, and recovery of credits or refunds for a savings of about \$42,000 over the last year. The District, according to 2018-2019 audit figures, saved \$35,000 by contracting operations with Amador Water Agency. The District will be awarded Grant Funding from the State in 2021 for a new Distribution System and water storage tank which will provide reliable drinking water and fire safety. For the District to receive these funds, the District must be able to illustrate that once the Distribution is redone, the District can maintain the system without further funding from the State. In order to achieve this, the Board of Directors have instructed that 5% of water income be placed into a Capital Improvement and Emergency Fund accounts required by the state. Vendor and service provider costs have increased, as well as testing requirements with the District still absorbing those increases. Examples of these increases are electricity rates which have been increasing dramatically. Due to PG&E power outages, the District has had to absorb tremendous cost keeping generators running, etc. The District has added more laboratory testing requirements from State of California regulatory agencies and water permit fees have more than doubled the past couple of years.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held during the regular meeting of the RPPUD Board of Directors on April 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the River Pines Town Hall, 22900 Canyon Avenue, River Pines, CA. Due to COVID-19, to practice social distancing, ALL attendants must wear a mask and only one person will be allowed into the Town Hall at a time to make their protest. Each attendant will be allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes to speak and submit their protest then they must exit the building. Doors and windows will be open so that the count can be heard. Please, to practice social distancing, only one member from each household.

This notice has been sent to all property owners and tenants on record that are directly responsible for payment for RPPUD water charges. If adopted by the RPPUD Board of Directors, the proposed changes to the RPPUD Rate and Fee Schedule would become effective September 1, 2021.

Written Protest

Pursuant to Proposition 218, you may express support for or opposition to any or all the proposed rate and fee schedule changes, prior to the close of the public hearing referenced above.

A written protest must contain:

1. A statement that it is a protest the proposed change(s) which is the hearing subject;
and
2. Name of the record property owner or responsible paying tenant; and
3. Identity of the affected parcel by Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) or service address;
and
4. Original signature and printed name of the record property owner or responsible paying tenant of the affected parcel. Only one signature per parcel will be counted.
5. Each owner must submit their own protest with the above information. Signature sheets are not accepted.

Written protests must be submitted to the Board of Directors by:

1. Delivery to the RPPUD District Office, 22900 Canyon Avenue, River Pines, CA; or
2. Mail to RPPUD, Attention: Board of Directors, PO Box 70, River Pines, CA 95675; or
3. Mail to RPPUD, Attention: Board of Directors, PO Box 1026, Blackfoot, ID 83221; or
4. Personally, submit the protest at the public hearing prior to its close.