

Indian Creek Westridge Community Services District

Notice of Public Hearing

Considering Rate Increase

You are receiving this notice because our records indicate that you are a water customer of the Indian Creek Westridge Community Services District (ICWCSD). The District is currently considering an increase to its water rates. This notice describes how you can participate in the rate setting process.

The ICWCSD is proud to continue providing high quality water and service as an independent provider. It has been six years since the last rate adjustment (7/1/2018) and the District's current challenge is keeping up with increasing State regulations designed for larger urban systems in areas where water quality is poor and supply compromised. It is a continuing struggle for small rural water systems to keep up financially with these regulations and mandates. The ICWCSD Board of Directors is considering a rate increase that will phase in over a five year period.

Total billing per month under proposed rate adjustment is as follows:

2025 \$110.00/month

2026 \$120.00/month

2027 \$130.00/month

2028 \$140.00/month

2029 \$150.00/month

The new rates would take effect January 1, 2025 and July 1 of each year thereafter for a total of five years as reflected above.

The basis upon which the proposed rates were calculated are deliberations by the ICWCSD Compensation and Rate Increase Committee, the ICWCSD Board of Directors, cost estimates from a trusted District contractor, income projections generated by the District CPA, Holland and Allred, and an evaluation by our California licensed engineer, Tim Rudolph. A copy of the Engineering Report is enclosed along with this letter.

WATER METERS - Current State law requires the installation of water meters at every service connection in the ICWCSD by 2032. The estimated cost to meet this requirement is \$1,200,000. Factoring in inflation, the cost by 2032 is expected to be 2 million dollars or more. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is firm on this requirement and has refused to accept requests for waivers from the District. The ICWCSD Board of Directors has decided to start installing meters as soon as possible to avoid inflation costs and a huge expenditure that would come due in 2032. This will spread out the cost over a 5-year period.

EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION - Your ICWCSD employees are continually trained and certified by the State Water Resources Control Board to manage your water system; however they are being paid far below the minimum standard industry wages. These wages will not attract future employees when our current hard-working staff members retire, including the current manager. A wage/salary increase was considered by the Board at the August meeting and approved for implementation on 10/1/2024. This increase will further increase the cost of operations.

PUBLIC HEARING -The ICWCD Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing on October 23, 2024 to consider adoption of this proposed rate increase. The hearing will provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed rate increase. The hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m., in the auditorium at the Jill Kinmont Booth School located at 166 Grandview Road, Bishop, CA 93514. If there is a 51% or greater opposition by District residents to the rate increase then the rate increase cannot be implemented. District residents wishing to express opposition to the increase should submit written opposition in advance of the meeting or attend the meeting to submit written or oral opposition. Written opposition, only one allowed per parcel, should be sent to Holland and Allred CPAs, ATTN: ICWCSD, 324 Grove St, Bishop, CA 93514. Comment should specify opposition/support, customer name, address/parcel number, and contact phone number.

The ICWCSD Board of Directors has done everything possible to avoid a rate increase, but based on the State's requirements and the need to fairly compensate our employees, this increase is necessary, thank you for your understanding.