



County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING
STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

May 5, 2023

APN:<<APN>>

<<NAME>>
<<ADDRESS>>
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NOTICE

**Subject: Notice of Proposed Increases in Water Service Fees – CSA 30, El Porvenir
(Proposition 218 Process)**

Dear property owner (including any tenant of your property) receiving water service from the County Service Area No. 30, El Porvenir (also called CSA 30), community water system:

This notice:

- Gives notice of a **public meeting** where members of the public (including property owners and their tenants) may give testimony and ask questions about the proposed increases in water service fees in this notice; and
- Gives notice of a **public protest hearing** before the Fresno County Board of Supervisors (the County Board), where members of the public (including property owners and their tenants) may object to the proposed increases in water service fees in this notice; and
- Explains how property owners (including their tenants) who receive water service from CSA 30 can **submit a letter protesting** the proposed increases in water service fees in this notice, and the **deadline** for submitting that protest letter; and
- Explains the **proposed increases in water service fees** for water service that is provided to customers of CSA 30. Those customers are users of water provided by CSA 30's community water system.

This notice is given under Article XIIIID, section 6, of the California Constitution (Proposition 218) and Government Code sections 53755 and 53756 of The Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act.

Notice of Public Meeting

On **June 13, 2023, at 3:00 P.M.**, County staff will conduct a public meeting at the Three Rocks Park located at the intersection of West El Progreso Avenue and West Hidalgo Avenue in El Porvenir, CA.

- This public meeting will provide you and other members of the public an opportunity to provide relevant testimony to County staff and to ask questions and provide comments about the proposed increases in water service fees in this notice. The County Board will not be present, and therefore will not take any action, to increase water service fees at this public meeting.

Notice of Public Protest Hearing

On **June 20, 2023, at 9:30 A.M.** (or as soon as possible thereafter as the County Board determines), the County Board will hold a public protest hearing in the meeting chambers of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, 2281 Tulare Street, 3rd Floor, Fresno, CA 93721.

- At the public protest hearing, the County Board will consider all objections and all written protests submitted by property owners (including their tenants) against the proposed increases in water service fees, in this notice, for CSA 30. However, **only timely, valid written protests will count** toward a “majority protest,” as discussed below.

Your right to protest: How to Protest the Proposed Increases in Water Service Fees

Each property owner (including their tenants) receiving water service from CSA 30 has the following rights.

If you **disagree** with the proposed increases in water service fees in this notice, for CSA 30, you may timely submit a written protest as stated below.

The County Board will not impose the increases in water service fees in this notice if the County Board determines that a majority of the property owners (including their tenants) receiving water service from CSA 30 submit **timely, valid written protests** against the proposed increases in water service fees (this is also known as a “**majority protest**”).

A “**majority protest**” is calculated based on the following:

- Only **one (1)** timely, valid written protest per parcel will be counted in calculating a majority protest.
- Any such owner or co-owner, or any such tenant, of a parcel may submit a **timely, valid, written protest**.

- You only need to submit **one (1)** timely, valid written protest on behalf of your parcel concerning all of the proposed increases in water service fees in this notice. In other words, if you submit **any** timely, valid written protest, it will count against **all** of such proposed increases in water service fees.
- If any such property owner, co-owner, or tenant for a parcel submits a timely, valid written protest, then **one (1)** protest will be counted **for that parcel** (Or, if all of them submit a timely, valid written protest, then only **one (1)** protest will be counted for that parcel).

Written protests may be on any kind of paper and may be typed or legibly handwritten but **must include all** of the following information:

- Information sufficient to **identify** the property that you own or rent, which is receiving water service from CSA 30, such as the address of your property, the Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) for your property (your APN is listed on the first page of this notice), or both;
- A written statement that you **protest or disagree with** the proposed increases in water service fees; and
- **Your signature.** Although the written protest may be typed, your signature must be handwritten.

Written protests must be placed in an envelope that is addressed and mailed or hand delivered to:

**Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
CSA 30 Protest Hearing
2281 Tulare Street, Room 301
Fresno, CA 93721
HOLD UNTIL PROTEST HEARING**

- To be considered as **timely submitted**, a written protest must be **received** by the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors **before** the **close** of the County Board public protest hearing, which currently scheduled to close on **June 20, 2023**. The date of U.S. postmark of any mailed protest will be disregarded for that purpose.
- Written protests that are submitted late will be disregarded.
- Protests will not be received by any means other than as stated above. For example, email, or fax, or telephone are not acceptable forms of submitting your written protest. Electronic signatures are not acceptable.
- Written protests that are timely submitted, as required above, will be counted only after the close of the public protest hearing.

The County Board reserves the right to determine whether any protest submitted against the increases in water service fees is **timely and valid**.

The County Board reserves the right to postpone the public protest hearing, including the close of the public protest hearing, to a future date that would be specified by the County Board.

What happens if there is no “majority protest”

If the County Board determines that there is no “majority protest,” then the County Board may immediately adopt the proposed increases in water services fees in this notice for all customers of the CSA 30 community water system.

Proposed Increases in Water Service Fees Necessary for CSA 30; explanation of proposed increases

CSA 30 water service fees are currently being charged to customers of the CSA 30 community water system. As proposed in this notice, the initial increased water service fees would begin **July 1, 2023**, and continue to increase as proposed in this notice through **June 30, 2028**.

For purposes of the proposed increased water service fees in this notice:

- **All references to “year” or “years” mean the period beginning July 1st of a listed year and ending on June 30 of the following year.**
- **All references to “groundwater wells” mean groundwater supply wells and distribution infrastructure for CSA 30.**

The CSA 30 community water system costs (e.g., operations, maintenance, and administration) are paid for from water service fees that are billed to CSA 30 customers, also known as water users. Water users may be either property owners or their tenants. The water service fees for the current CSA 30 community water system are also used by the County to pay for the cost to purchase untreated surface water from Westlands Water District, the cost to treat that untreated surface water, and the cost to deliver the potable water to water users of CSA 30. As discussed below, groundwater is planned as the future water source for water users of CSA 30.

The current rates for the water service fees proposed to be increased in this notice are from the last time new rates were established, which was August 9, 2016.

The current water service fees, and current collections of such fees from CSA 30 customers, do not provide adequate funds for the operation, maintenance, and administration of the CSA 30 community water system.

The CSA 30 community water system cannot continue to operate with the current water service fees and current collections of such fees from CSA 30 customers.

Therefore, the proposal in this notice is for **increases** in water service fees to CSA 30 customers to enable the CSA 30 community water system to continue to operate both under the current source of surface water, and under the planned future source of groundwater, **assuming that CSA 30 customers timely and fully pay their CSA 30 water bills.**

As discussed below, the proposal in this notice to **increases** in water service fees does **NOT** include any reduction, offset, or adjustment for:

- (1) Any possible funding that the County may be attempting to obtain from other agencies, such as any possible State grant funding; or
- (2) Any County relief, including but not limited to any reduction, forgiveness, elimination, or further deferral of collection of CSA 30's negative cash balance of water services fees that have been held by the County, and not yet charged to CSA 30 customers (plus interest thereon due to non-collection), for multiple years.

Note: Due to the inadequacy of the revenues from current water service fees, the expenses of the CSA 30 community water system typically exceeded the budget before the end of the County fiscal years, and have been held by the County—i.e., not yet charged to CSA 30 customers; those amounts, plus interest thereon due to non-collection, are included in the proposal in this notice to **increases** in water service fees (See **“The Base Fee Portion of the Water Service Fees,”** below).

The proposal to increase water services fees in this notice is set forth in a restructured format discussed below. That is:

- (1) The CSA 30 water service fees proposed in this notice are composed of two portions (also known as components):
 - a. The Base Fee Portion of the Water Service Fees; and
 - b. The Variable Fee Portion of the Water Service Fees; and
- (2) As stated above, for purposes of the proposed increased water service fees in this notice, all references to “year” or “years” mean the period beginning July 1st of a listed year and ending June 30 of the following year.

The proposal to increase water service fees in this notice will initially be charged for surface water, however, those increased water service fees will change when the water source for CSA 30 community water system transitions in the future from surface water to groundwater, as discussed below. The CSA 30 water service fees will also be increased (and/or adjusted, as applicable), as shown in the applicable Tables below, as a result of the commodity charge relating to the cost of treated surface water, for annual price escalations of certain costs, and to build a minimum cash reserve.

Note – please disregard earlier notice for prior protest hearing

You received a similar notice earlier this year for prior proposed increased water service fees that the Board of Supervisors considered in a prior protest hearing on February 28, 2023. That prior protest hearing resulted in the Board of Supervisors finding that there was a “majority protest,” and as a result, the Board of Supervisors took no action concerning those prior proposed increased water services fees.

The Board of Supervisors’ prior protest hearing on February 28, 2023 **does not relate** to the protest hearing for the proposed increased rates in this notice.

Although the proposed increased water service rates in this notice are for the same water services, the proposed increased water service rates in this notice are **different** than the rates listed in the earlier notice.

The earlier notice **does not apply** to the proposed increased water service fees in this notice.

The Base Fee Portion of the Water Service Fees

The first portion of this proposal to increases in water service fees is the monthly **base fee portion** of the water service fees (as discussed below, this is initially for surface water provided to CSA 30 customers). The base fee portion of the water services fees would cover the cost to operate and maintain the CSA 30 community water system **regardless** of the amount of water used by each customer assuming that CSA 30 customers timely and fully pay their CSA 30 water bills.

- The proposal in this notice is to **increase** the base fee portion of the water service fees **initially from \$104.21 per month** (current customer rate) **to \$287.58 per month** **initially for surface water** provided by CSA 30 to its customers, beginning **July 1, 2023**.
 - For dollar amounts relating to the current customer rate and increased customer rate during the **initial** year, see Table 1, below.
- This per-month base fee portion of the water service fees will **further increase** each July 1st, and will increase **up to \$311.10 per month, with this last increase to begin July 1, 2027**, while **surface water** is being provided by CSA 30 to its customers.
 - For dollar amounts relating to the current customer rate and to increased customer rates for each following year, see Table 1, below.
- This per-month base fee portion of the increased water service fees will **change** once CSA 30 community water system's water source transitions from surface water to groundwater.
 - For changed dollar amounts relating to the current customer rate and to increased customer rates for each applicable year, see Table 3, below.
- After the initial increase in water service fees on July 1, 2023, the annual increases in water services fees will begin each following July 1st for a total five year period.
- The base fee portion of the water service fees also includes:

- Payments of CSA 30's negative cash balance of water services fees that have been held by the County, and not yet charged to CSA 30 customers (including interest thereon due to non-collection¹), for multiple years (total of \$477,790.92);
- Payments that would allow CSA 30 to build a minimum cash reserve in the amount of \$193,000 (total amount based on 5 years of \$38,600/year), which is intended to cover a certain amount of unanticipated expenses, as required by County Board policies; and
- Payments for 2% annual price escalations of certain costs. Upon the transition from surface water to ground water, the annual price escalations applicable in that fiscal year only is a decrease by 15.52%, as shown in Table 3, below.

The Variable Fee Portion of the Water Service Fees

The second portion of this proposal to increases in water service fees is the monthly **variable fee portion** of the water service fees. The variable fee portion is composed of two parts, both of which are based on water consumptions by users of the CSA 30 community water system.

The **first part** of the variable fee portion would be charged for:

- **Variable operation costs** of the CSA community water system.
 - These costs are directly related to water usage, such as electricity, chemicals, and repairs.
 - The proposal in this notice is to initially establish the variable fee portion (for variable operation costs) of the water service fees **at \$3.99 per thousand gallons of surface water consumed initially for surface water** provided by CSA 30 to its customers, beginning **July 1, 2023**.
 - For dollar amount relating to the initially established customer rate during the initial year, see Table 2, below.
 - This per thousand gallons variable fee portion (for variable operation costs) of the water service fee will **further increase** on July 1st of every following year, and will increase **up to \$4.31 per thousand gallons of surface water consumed, with this last increase to begin July 1, 2027**, while **surface water** is being provided by CSA 30 to its customers.
 - For dollar amounts relating to increased customer rates for each applicable year, see Tables 2 and 4, below.
 - This per thousand gallons variable fee portion (for variable operation costs) of the increased water service fees will **change** once CSA 30 community water system's water source transitions from surface water to groundwater.

¹ Solely to ensure that other County public funding sources are made whole, the CSA 30's negative cash balance is expected to be charged interest by the County Auditor-Controller/Treasurer-Tax Collector at the County then-current pooled funds rate. The County pooled fund rate for the quarter ending December 31, 2022 was 2.027%, which was used to calculate estimated interest for the purpose of the rate analysis.

- For changed dollar amounts relating to current customer rate and increased customer rates for each applicable year, see Table 4, below.

The **second part** of the variable fee portion would be charged for:

- Variable **surface water consumption** costs for actual water usage.
 - The proposed increases in this part of the variable fee portion relate to a commodity charge for actual water usage of treated surface water provided by the CSA 30 community water system (including automatic adjustments for changes related to a commodity charge, explained below).
 - The proposal in this notice is to **adjust** the variable fee portion (for variable **surface water consumption** costs) of the water service fees by using the **actual cost** per 1,000 gallons of **treated** surface water, including automatic adjustments, at any time, for changed costs.
 - **Cost of treated surface water:** The cost of surface water is based on a commodity charge that is charged by the surface water supplier, Westlands Water District (Westlands), which provides untreated surface water to the County for CSA 30. That cost is calculated by using the **actual cost** per 1,000 gallons of **treated** surface water purchased by the County for CSA 30. Due to the nature of the water treatment process, for every 1 gallon of treated surface water delivered to CSA 30 customers, 1.1 gallons of surface water must be purchased by the County from Westlands to provide sufficient water for the treatment process. The current cost to the County, as of March 1, 2023, to supply treated surface water to CSA 30 customers is \$1.10 per 1,000 gallons. The current charge by the County to CSA 30 customers for treated surface water provided to them is \$2.48 per 1,000 gallons, based on the most recently-established water service fees schedule for CSA 30. The difference in collections from CSA 30 customers between the amount of such current cost to the County to supply treated surface water to CSA 30 customers and the amount of such current charge by the County to CSA 30 customers for treated surface water has been fully applied by the County to CSA 30's accounts for operation and maintenance costs for the CSA 30 community water system.
 - The initial proposed adjusted cost of treated surface water in this notice, as of the date of this notice, is \$1.10 per 1,000 gallons.
 - ➔ **Automatic adjustments at any time for cost changes:** If the proposed increases in water service fees in this notice are adopted, and if, at any time, Westlands establishes and implements any changes in the cost of surface water that Westlands provides to the County for CSA 30, the County shall **automatically adjust** the cost of such surface water, as treated, provided to property owners (including their tenants) receiving water service from CSA 30, and

pass through any such cost changes to such property owners (including such tenants), upon at least 30 days' advance notice by County staff to such property owners (including each tenant listed on the County's CSA 30 bill register).

These automatic adjustments and pass-throughs of changes in surface water costs by the County to property owners (including their tenants) receiving water service from CSA 30:

- (1) Are authorized under, and shall be made pursuant to Government Code section 53756, subdivisions (c) and (d); and
- (2) May occur at any time between July 1, 2023, which is the beginning of the initial increased water service fees under the proposal in this notice, and June 30, 2028, which is the last date of the five year period.

There is no limitation on the number of changes or amount of changes that Westlands may establish and implement for in the cost of surface water that Westlands provides to the County for CSA 30, and the County has no control over Westlands concerning such costs.

- The increases in water services fees will begin each July 1; the first year for these increased fees will begin July 1, 2023.
 - For initial dollar amount of customer rates, and discussion Notes for automatic adjustments, which may be at any time, to customer rates relating to each applicable year, see Tables 2 and 4, below.

Increases in water service fees using surface water from CSA 30

The proposal in this notice to **increases** in water service fees is as follows, in Tables 1 and 2, below, **until** the CSA 30 community water system's water source transitions from surface water to groundwater, as discussed below. The present estimate for switching from surface water to groundwater is July 1, 2025 (See "**Increases in water service fees using groundwater from CSA 30,**" below). The increased water service fees for **surface water** shall continue to increase until such transition, as follows:

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Table 1

<p align="center">Proposed Increased Monthly Base Fee Portion of Water Service Fees With 2.00 % Annual Escalations</p> <p align="center">Assumes Surface Water for all Years, beginning July 1, 2023 (Rates until the new groundwater wells are completed and are in service)</p> <p align="center">See Note*</p>						
		Proposed Increased Rates (Year*)				
Customer	Current Rate	Effective on July 1, 2023	Effective on July 1, 2024	Effective on July 1, 2025	Effective on July 1, 2026	Effective on July 1, 2027
Residential	\$104.21	\$287.58	\$293.29	\$299.09	\$305.03	\$311.10
See Note**						

Note:

* All references to “year” or “years” mean the period beginning July 1 of the listed year and ending on June 30 of the following year.

** Includes all residences, within and outside of CSA 30, which are served by the CSA 30 community water system.

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Table 2

<p align="center">Proposed Increased Monthly Variable Fee Portion of Water Service Fees (per 1,000 gallons)</p> <p align="center">Assumes Surface Water for all Years, beginning July 1, 2023</p> <p align="center">(Rates until the new groundwater wells are completed and are in service)</p> <p align="center">See Note*</p>						
		Proposed Increased Rates (Year*)				
	Current Rate	Effective on July 1, 2023	Effective on July 1, 2024	Effective on July 1, 2025	Effective on July 1, 2026	Effective on July 1, 2027
Variable Operations	[None] See Note**	\$3.99	\$4.07	\$4.15	\$4.23	\$4.31
Commodity charge (Treated surface water)	\$2.48	Actual cost, subject to automatic adjustments (initially \$1.10, as of the date of this notice). See Note***				

Notes:

* All references to “year” or “years” mean the period beginning July 1 of the listed year and ending on June 30 of the following year.

** There is no separate current rate for the variable fee portion (for operation costs) of the water services fees relating to surface water.

*** Automatic adjustments will be made at any time for all years based on the following: if, at any time, Westlands establishes and implements any changes in the cost of surface water that Westlands provides to the County for CSA 30, the County shall **automatically adjust** the cost of such surface water, as treated, to property owners (including their tenants) receiving water service from CSA 30, and **pass through any such cost changes** to such property owners (including such tenants), upon at least 30 days’ advance notice by County staff to such property owners (including each tenant listed on the County’s CSA 30 bill register).

Increases in water service fees using groundwater from CSA 30

The County is in the process of constructing new groundwater wells to replace existing surface water treatment plant (SWTP) facilities for the CSA 30 community water system. Once that project is completed, the existing SWTP will be abandoned, and two new groundwater wells

will supply the water system. As a result, the source of water for CSA 30 will change from surface water to groundwater.

The County secured grant funds from State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to construct the groundwater wells and the project is presently anticipated to be complete by July 1, 2025 (those grant funds are used solely for that purpose, and do **not** reduce, offset, or adjust the proposed increased water service fees in this notice). The expected timeline to transition CSA 30's water source from surface water to groundwater is only a present estimate based on the presently-anticipated time to complete construction. The County cannot give any assurance on the actual completion date. The timing will be subject to actual completion of construction and receiving approval from the State Water Board to place the new groundwater wells into service, and the County has no control over the State Water Board. Therefore, as proposed in this notice, the water service fee increases, if adopted, using groundwater wells, will not go into effect unless and until approval is received from State Water Board to place new groundwater wells into service.

Once the groundwater wells are completed, CSA 30 operating costs will change because CSA 30's water source will transition from surface water to groundwater.

The proposal in this notice to **increases** in water service fees is based on the assumption that the groundwater wells are completed on schedule by July 1, 2025.

However, if such completion is **earlier or later** than such assumed completion date, then **regardless** of such assumed completion date, the following shall apply pursuant to Tables 1 and 2, above, or pursuant to Tables 3 and 4, below, as applicable:

- If such completion is **earlier** than such assumed completion date, then the following increased water service fees for **groundwater** (assumed to be effective July 1, 2025), as stated in Tables 3 and 4, below, shall instead be **effective** upon such earlier actual completion and ability for CSA 30 to deliver groundwater, and shall increase as follows, as stated in Tables 3 and 4, below.
- But if such completion is **later** than such assumed completion date, then the increased water service fees for **surface water shall continue and shall increase as stated in Tables 1 and 2, above (See "Increases in water service fees using surface water from CSA 30," above)**, and the following increased water service fees for groundwater, as stated in Tables 3 and 4, below, shall be effective in the applicable year, upon such actual completion, and ability for CSA 30 to deliver groundwater, and shall continue to increase as follows, as stated in Tables 3 and 4:

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Table 3

**Proposed Increased Monthly Base Fee Portion of Water Service Fees
 Generally with 2.00 % Annual Escalations***

**Assumes Surface Water for First Two Years, beginning July 1, 2023
 Assumes Groundwater for Last Three Years, beginning July 1, 2025**

(Rates for groundwater after the new groundwater wells are completed and are in service)

See Note**

		Proposed Increased Rates (Year*)				
Customer	Current Rate	Surface Water: Effective on July 1, 2023	Surface Water: Effective on July 1, 2024	Groundwater: Effective on July 1, 2025	Groundwater: Effective on July 1, 2026	Groundwater: Effective on July 1, 2027
Residential	\$104.21	\$287.58	\$293.29	\$252.12	\$257.10	\$262.20
See Note*****		See Note*** See Note ****	See Note*** See Note ****	See Note ****	See Note ****	See Note ****

Notes:

* Upon transition from surface water to groundwater, the Annual Escalations applicable in that fiscal year, only, is a decrease by 15.52%.

** All references to “year” or “years” mean the period beginning July 1 of the listed year and ending on June 30 of the following year.

*** Same rate for proposed increased rate for surface water as set forth in Table 1, above, for the applicable year.

**** As stated above, **regardless** of the assumed completion date for the completion of groundwater wells, this rate depends upon the actual completion of groundwater wells, and the ability for CSA 30 to deliver groundwater.

***** Includes all residences, within and outside of CSA 30, which are served by the CSA 30 community water system.

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Table 4

Proposed Increased Monthly Variable Fee Portion (per 1,000 gallons) of Water Service Fees Assumes Surface Water for First Two Years, beginning July 1, 2023 Assumes Groundwater for Last Three Years, beginning July 1, 2025 (Rates for groundwater after the new groundwater wells are completed and are in service) See Note*						
		Proposed Increased Rates (Year*)				
	Current Rate	Surface Water: Effective on July 1, 2023	Surface Water: Effective on July 1, 2024	Groundwater: Effective on July 1, 2025	Groundwater: Effective on July 1, 2026	Groundwater: Effective on July 1, 2027
Variable Operations	[None] See Note**	\$3.99 See Note** See Note ***	\$4.07 See Note** See Note ***	\$2.96 See Note ***	\$3.02 See Note ***	\$3.08 See Note ***
Commodity charge (Treated surface water)	\$2.48	Actual cost, subject to automatic adjustments (initially \$1.10, as of the date of this notice). See Note****		[None] See Note***		

Notes:

* All references to “year” or “years” mean the period beginning July 1 of the listed year and ending on June 30 of the following year.

**For current rate: there is no separate current rate for the variable fee portion (for operation costs) of the water services fees relating to surface water. For each proposed increased rate: same rate for proposed increased rate for surface water as set forth in Table 2, above, for the applicable year.

*** As stated above, **regardless** of the assumed completion date for the completion of groundwater wells, this rate depends upon the actual completion of groundwater wells, and the ability for CSA 30 to deliver groundwater. Once a switch is made to groundwater, the fee for groundwater will not include a portion for a commodity charge.

**** The County will need to continue charging the commodity charge for treated surface water provided to users of the CSA 30 community water system (i.e., the same

commodity charge that produces the cost for treated surface water in Table 2, above, that will recover the **higher operating cost** of the SWTP). Automatic adjustments shall be made at any time for all years based on the following: if, at any time, Westlands establishes and implements any changes in the cost of surface water that Westlands provides to the County for CSA 30, the County shall **automatically adjust** the cost of such surface water, as treated, to property owners (including their tenants) receiving water service from CSA 30, and **pass through any such cost changes** to such property owners (including such tenants), upon at least 30 days' advance notice by County staff to such property owners (including each tenant listed on the County's CSA 30 bill register).

No Assurance for any State Grant Funding or for any County Relief

The proposal in this notice to **increases** in water service fees does **NOT** include any reduction, offset, or adjustment for:

- (1) any possible funding that the County may attempt to seek or attempt to obtain from other agencies, such as any possible State grant funding; or
- (2) any County relief, including but not limited to any reduction, forgiveness, elimination, or further deferral of collection of CSA 30's negative cash balance of water services fees that have been held by the County (and interest thereon due to non-collection), and not yet charged to CSA 30, for multiple years (See "**The Base Fee Portion of the Water Service Fees,**" above).

The County has applied for grant funding from the State Water Board [defined above]—Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund to subsidize water rates for CSA 30. The County is seeking such grant funds to subsidize water bills from CSA 30 up to a five-year period, so that such grant proceeds, if obtained, could pay for all or part of the operating portion of the base fee up to the first 5,000 gallons of water sold to each customer.

However, the County cannot give any assurance that such State grant funding, or any part of it, will be awarded by the State Water Board [defined above] (or if such funding is awarded by the State Water Board, the County cannot give any assurance as to when such State grant funding might be awarded or for how much or for how long such funding might be provided).

Property owners (including their tenants) receiving water service from CSA 30 should not make any decision concerning the proposed increases in water service fees in this notice based on any possibility of any future State Water Board grant funding for CSA 30 or on any County relief from the payment of such fees.

For More Information

For a more detailed explanation as to how the increased water services fees, including the rates, above were calculated, please refer to the completed County Service Area 30 Water Rate Analysis report, dated April 28, 2023, prepared by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group, which can be found online at the following web address:

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<https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/public-works-planning/divisions-of-public-works-and-planning/resources-and-parks-division/special-districts-administration/special-district-894>

County staff's report to the County Board concerning this matter, including any supporting documents, will be made available online approximately the Wednesday before the County Board meeting for the public protest hearing. You may access that information at: <https://fresnocounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

If you do not have internet access, you may obtain a hardcopy of the County Service Area 30 Water Rate Analysis report, and the foregoing County staff report to the County Board, and supporting information as of the date of your request, by contacting the County staff person identified below.

Questions?

If you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact County staff, at (559) 600-4259, of the County of Fresno Department of Public Works and Planning, Resources Division, Special Districts, or at SpecialDistrictsAdm@fresnocountyca.gov via email.

Sincerely,

***Department of Public Works and Planning
Resources | Special Districts***

This notice is being sent by U.S. mail to the record owner of each identified parcel upon which such increased water service fees is proposed for imposition, and to each tenant listed on the County's CSA 30 billing register.