**Notice of Public Hearing**

**Regarding Proposed Water Rates Increase**

**NOTICE IS HEARBY GIVEN** that the Chester Public Utility District (**District**) Board of Directors (**Board**) has called a public hearing for **July 25, 2023, at 5:30 pm** at the District’s conference room located at 251 Chester Airport Rd. Chester CA. 96020 to consider an increase in water rates. The new rates, if adopted, will go into effect on August 1, 2023. In compliance with Proposition 218, affected property owners within the District’s service area are hereby informed of the proposed increase in water rates.

**Background**: The District provides residents and customers safe high-quality water meeting all federal and state requirements at fair and affordable rates. Water services charges are paid directly by property owners and/or tenants through bills rendered monthly.

**Why is the Rate Increase Needed?** The proposed increases will help the District meet the increasing costs of operations and maintenance caused by inflation, increased regulatory requirements, needed capital improvements, as well as contributing to reserves. The proposed water rates necessary to meet future obligations are shown in Table A, along with the current rates.

**Questions And Public Comment**: If you have any questions regarding this notice or how it may affect your property, call (530) 258-2171 Monday thru Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Supporting documentation is available for review at the District Office, 251 Chester Airport Rd, Chester, California 96020 and located on the District website <https://www.chesterpud.org/>.

**To Protest this Increase:** Any record owner of a parcel upon which the proposed water service charges are to be imposed or any tenant directly responsible for the payment of water service fees (i.e., a customer of record who is not a property owner) may submit a written protest to the proposed increases to the rates for the District’s Water Rates; provided, however, only one protest will be counted per identified parcel. Each protest must: (1) be in writing; (2) state whether the protest is submitted in opposition to the rate increases to the proposed water rates; (3) provide the location of the identified parcel (by service address or assessor’s parcel number); and (4) include the name and signature of the person submitting the written protest. Written protests may be submitted by mail to the District Office, 251 Chester Airport Rd, Chester, California 96020. Written protests may also be submitted in person at the District Office, 251 Chester Airport Rd, Chester, California 96020 or at the public hearing (see date, time and location above). All written protests must be received prior to the conclusion of the public input portion of the Public Hearing. Any protest submitted via e-mail or other electronic means will not be accepted as a formal written protest. Please identify on the front of the envelope for any protest, whether mailed or submitted in person, Attn: Public Hearing on the Proposed Increase to Water Rates.

The District’s Board of Directors will consider all written protests submitted and hear and consider all public comments made at the public hearing. Oral comments at the public hearing will not qualify as formal protests unless accompanied by a written protest. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the District’s Board of Directors will determine whether to adopt the proposed rate increases to the water rates. If, after the close of the public hearing, written protests against any of the proposed rate increases as outlined above are not presented by a majority of the record owners of the identified parcels upon which they are proposed to be imposed, the District’s Board of Directors will be authorized to impose the rate increases. Pursuant to Government Code Section 53759, a judicial action to challenge any new, increased, or extended fee or charge must be brought within 120 days of the final approval of the fee or charge.

**How Are Your Water Service Charges Calculated?** Your water service bill consists of a monthly fixed charge based on each customer’s meter size. All retail customers’ meter charge includes 6,000 gallons of water use, whereas commercial customers pay for all usage. Fixed rates were determined by summing the total fixed costs allocated to each customer class. Next, total fixed costs are divided by the number of equivalent meters in each customer class. Customer service costs were divided evenly between each billed customer. Variable rates were established based on variable costs such as water purchases and pumping costs. Residential customers are billed per 1,000 gallons (tGal) for all usage exceeding 6 tGal included in the base charge. Commercial customers are billed for all usage which accounts for the costs incurred by these customers. Sprinkler customers are billed only a meter charge and not for use. For example, under the proposed rates for Fiscal Year (**FY**) 2024 the water service charges for a single-family service with a 3/4-inch meter and monthly water usage of 20 thousand gallons (tGal) would be as follows: Fixed Charge ($27.49) plus Water Quantity Charge (6 tGal x $0.00 + 14 tGal x $0.95) = $40.79

**Current Rates and Proposed Rates**

**Table A**





Adam Cox

General Manager