



## NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE INCREASE

The Board of Commissioners will be holding a **Public Hearing on June 26, 2024 at 5pm to hear public comment** regarding a proposed 6% increase to the customer consumption rate and a 3% increase to the flat monthly meter rate. The hybrid meeting will be held at the District's office (3105 SW 89<sup>th</sup> Avenue) and via Zoom virtual conferencing at the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/bdezc5md>

Meeting ID: 849 3064 6501

Passcode: 474179

Phone link (audio only): (253) 215-8782

**The public is encouraged to attend and provide comment.**

Written comment may also be submitted via email to [customer.service@wswd.org](mailto:customer.service@wswd.org).

Written and oral testimony will become part of the hearing record.

The Board of Commissioners is proposing an increase to the District's consumption charge and the monthly minimum (flat fee) charge. The increase will be effective for bills generated after June 26, 2024.

- The consumption charge will increase 6% or \$0.43 from \$7.18 to \$7.61 for each 748 gallons (1 unit) of use.
- The monthly meter (flat fee) for the typical 5/8" meter will increase 3% or \$0.62, from \$20.52 to \$21.14 per month. The flat monthly fee for all other meter sizes will increase proportionately.

For a residential customer who uses an average of 8 units of water per month, the monthly water bill will increase by a total of \$4.06 per month or \$48.72 per year.

The additional revenues will be utilized for projects to improve/replace District water mains and reservoirs as well as to support increases in District operating costs.

# Frequently Asked Questions

- **Where does my water come from?** West Slope purchases 100% of its water supply from the City of Portland which uses Bull Run surface water year-round with additional groundwater from wells as needed during the summer months.
- **If my water rates increase 6% for water used and 3% for the flat monthly fee, how much more will I be paying for water?** The fixed meter fee for a 5/8" meter will increase \$0.62 (from \$20.52 to \$21.14) and the per unit consumption rate will increase \$0.43 (from \$7.18 to \$7.61). For example, a typical residential home using an average of 8 CCF units a month, your bill would increase by \$4.06 per month or \$48.72 per year.
- **Why is this water rate increase necessary?** The cost to operate a drinking water utility like West Slope increases annually along with the general cost of living. The District's water distribution system that brings the water to you needs improvement to provide seismic resilience and replacement when pipe materials fail. The largest part of this rate increase will go to fund capital projects which improve the integrity of the water distribution system.
- **Will there be more water rate increases in the years to come?** Yes, and for reasons related to the region as well as specific to the District. By 2026, the Portland Water Bureau will begin to operate the new Bull Run Water Filtration Treatment Facility. Portland and their wholesale water customers like West Slope Water District will share in the cost of the new water treatment facility through our water rates to Portland. Additionally, the District has its own share of capital projects to replace aging pipelines and one reservoir within the District. The cost to pay for those improvements comes from your water rates.
- **How can I get more information about Portland's projects?** The Portland Water Bureau provides the public with regular updates to their construction projects at: <https://www.portland.gov/water/improvements>
- **How can I get more information about the District's budget and projects in West Slope?** The District's budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, can be found on the District's website at [www.wswd.org](http://www.wswd.org). If you have questions about the budget, please call the District at 503-292-2777, 8 am-noon and 1-4:30 pm weekdays or email the District at [customer.service@wswd.org](mailto:customer.service@wswd.org).
- **How can I share my thoughts and concerns about the water rate increase with the District?** Besides contacting the District (see above), you can speak to the Board of Commissioners directly during the public hearing for the water rate increase at 5pm, Wednesday, June 26th. This meeting will be held in person and via Zoom.

