WATER RATE UPDATE!
MONTECITO WATER DISTRICT HAS PLANS FOR DELIVERING A SECURE WATER FUTURE

We’ve heard from our customers, who want their drinking water to come from local, reliable supplies with stable, predictable, and affordable rates.

THE CHALLENGES

• Our current water sources are projected to be insufficient to meet our community’s future needs.

• In the most recent drought surface supplies dwindled, groundwater was relied on heavily and became severely depleted. High-risk supplemental water had to be purchased to cover our community’s needs, even though customers cut their water use. Future droughts are forecast to last longer and be more severe. Climate change is one factor.

• Environmental and regulatory restrictions are expanding, which further limits supplies from the State Water Project and Lake Cachuma.

• Water storage is an ongoing concern. Capacity in Jameson Lake and Lake Cachuma has been permanently reduced as a result of silting and fires, which also impacts water quality.

• Many parts of Montecito and Summerland rely on water infrastructure that is almost 100 years old and becomes less reliable each day.

OUR SOLUTION INCLUDES

• A comprehensive plan to provide for water needs moving forward.

• Negotiating a long-term Water Supply Agreement (WSA) with the City of Santa Barbara. The City’s desalination plant provides the foundation for the WSA, which will cement a regional partnership in water management and provide our customers with a flexible, drought-resilient supply at a guaranteed cost for the next 50 years.

• Continuing to modernize our water system to better ensure reliability, with planned investments of more than $11.7 million over the next five years.

WHAT’S NEXT

MAY 26, 2020
District Board Regular Meeting

JUNE 3, 2020 (TENTATIVE)
Public open house (in person or virtual/by phone as conditions allow)

JUNE 25, 2020
District Board Hearing to consider rate changes (in person or virtual/by phone as conditions allow)

JULY 1, 2020
New rates go into effect if approved by District Board
IF NEW RATES ARE ADOPTED, WHAT CHANGES CAN RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS EXPECT ON THEIR BILLS THIS YEAR?

If the new proposed rate structure is implemented July 2020, approximately 56% of customers will see a decrease in their bills for the next 12 months, assuming their water consumption remains the same as it has been in the past.

MONTHLY CUSTOMER BILL IMPACTS 2020

- 56% Reduce or Remain About the Same
- 73% Decrease or Increase Less Than $20/mo.
- 19% Increase Between $20 and $100/mo.
- 17% Increase Less Than $20/mo.
- 8% Increase More Than $100/mo.

While we do everything we can to maximize efficiencies to keep costs low, costs are increasing about 2% annually due to inflation as tracked by the consumer price index in our region. Costs for imported water and capital needs are increasing as much as 6%.

LEARN MORE!

For more information, to discuss future plans or share how we can better serve you, MWD representatives we are always available - our contact information is below.

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