



# WATER RATE UPDATE

## Responsible Finances Ensure Continued Water Reliability

**Montecito Water District provides high-quality water essential for everyday life in our community.** We maintain an expansive network, including over 110 miles of distribution pipes and state-of-the-art treatment facilities, ensuring water is at-the-ready for residences, businesses, and fire protection.

Water rates reflect the real cost of water service and are based on the cost to produce, purchase, treat, and deliver water. Extraordinary inflation, aging infrastructure, and the need to improve system resilience have resulted in higher costs in recent years.

The District is committed to raising rates only when required, as determined through detailed evaluation that also guides timing and amounts of increases. This requires careful oversight and balance.

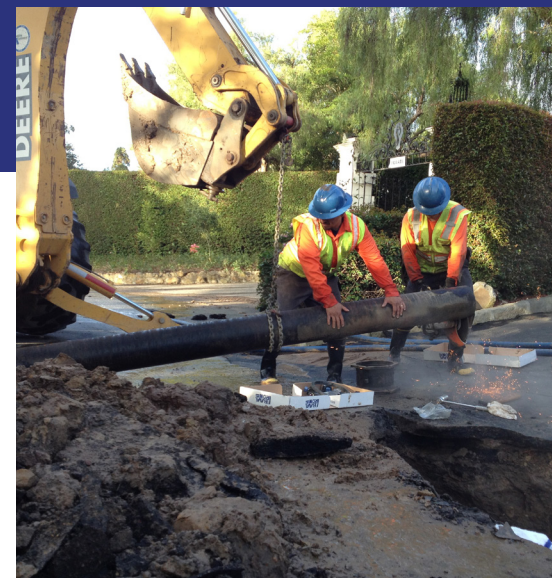
On one side of the scale, we need to fund operations and strategic investments in water system infrastructure to keep resilience, quality, and reliability at the levels our customers expect. We've worked hard and secured significant state and federal funding to offset costs.

On the other side, we're being impacted by inflation that has risen significantly since 2020. This year, a rate adjustment is needed to keep plans on track and meet rising water service costs. The Board is committed to setting rates that reflect the real cost of water service but are **not a penny higher than necessary**.

Please reach out if you have questions about the rate-setting process and plan to join us at upcoming Board meetings, where public comment and participation are valued.

## WATER RATES - WHAT'S NEXT?

April 29, 2024	Rate Study Report reviewed at Board Meeting
Early May 2024	Notice of proposed rate adjustments mailed to all customers
June 25, 2024	Public hearing on adopting proposed rates
July 2024	New rates go into effect if approved by District Board



# WATER QUALITY

Delivering high quality water is a vital part of Montecito Water District's responsibility and commitment to outstanding customer service. Year after year, your water is treated and tested to ensure that it meets or exceeds Federal and State water quality standards in compliance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the State of California's Water Resources Control Board requirements.

The pipelines that carry your water also play a role in the quality of the water that arrives at your tap. The Environmental Protection Agency now requires all public water systems to conduct a Lead Service Line Inventory by October 16, 2024, with the goal of identifying any potential sources of lead in tap water associated with water service lines. This inventory applies to both the District owned portion of the service line which brings water to the meter, and the customer-owned portion of the service line that delivers water from the meter onto individual properties.

No lead was identified during a comprehensive inventory of the District's pipes to customer meters completed in 2018. From March through August 2024, an inventory of customers' pipes will be conducted by the District's qualified staff using a State approved sampling process with an emphasis on properties built before 1986.

## What can customers expect?

The primary goal of the inventory is to identify potential sources of lead in tap water because lead is harmful to your health. You may see a Montecito Water District staff member at the water meter collecting inventory data on an iPad and perhaps digging a small hole on the customer's side of the meter. Customers will be notified immediately if lead pipe is detected, and may also be contacted if staff are not able to access a pipe as needed.

For questions, please contact Adam Kanold, Assistant General Manager/Engineering Manager at 805.969.2271.



# WATER USE EFFICIENCY

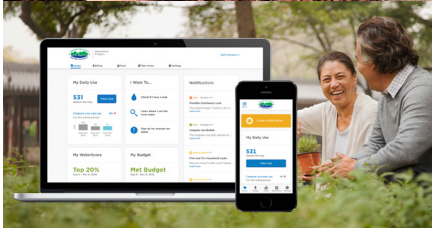


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