



**Twentynine Palms Water District
72401 Hatch Road
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277-2935**

**TWENTYNINE PALMS WATER DISTRICT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
REGARDING PROPOSED RATE INCREASES FOR WATER SERVICE FEES**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Twentynine Palms Water District (the District) will conduct a public hearing on **February 25, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as practicable, in the Board Room of the District's administrative office, located at 72401 Hatch Road, Twentynine Palms, California, 92277, to consider adopting increases and adjustments to the rates of its water service fees.

Reasons for the Proposed Rate Increases. The District is committed to providing the highest quality services at the lowest possible rates for our customers. To meet this commitment, the District has exercised fiscal discipline by managing its operating costs, deferring capital projects, and using reserves. While the District continually strives for cost reductions and better utilization of the assets it holds, it also needs to keep pace with inflation, drinking water regulations, and other cost increases, many of which it cannot control. This year the District hired an independent rate consultant to determine whether rate increases are necessary, and if so, how best to recover these projected cost increases over a five-year period. Based on this evaluation, the District must increase rates in order to pay for planned capital improvements, including significant well and reservoir improvements, as well as to keep pace with ongoing inflation and to mitigate impacts of water demand.

Basis upon Which the Rates are Calculated. The rate structure for the District's monthly water service fees is comprised of two components — (1) a fixed service charge (the "Ready to Serve Charge") for both potable (i.e., treated) and non-potable (i.e., untreated) water customers; and, (2) a variable water commodity charge (the "Commodity Charge"). The Ready to Serve Charge is a fixed charge established on the basis of the size of the water meter (in inches) serving a property and is calculated to recover most of the District's annual fixed costs of providing water service, such as utilities, equipment, materials, billing, collections, customer service, meter reading, and meter maintenance. The Commodity Charge is imposed at a uniform rate, and varies based on whether the customer receives potable water, non-potable water, or purchase water at the Utah Trail Pay Station. The amount of the charge imposed varies based on the number of units of water delivered to a property, except for the Utah Trail Pay Station, which is charged per gallon of water purchased. One unit of water equals one hundred cubic feet ("HCF"), or 748 gallons. The Commodity Charge is calculated to recover the District's costs of providing water and a portion of its fixed costs.

The District also imposes a fixed monthly fire service charge ("Fire Service Charge") on certain commercial properties as a condition of extending or initiating water service by (1) the installation of a private fire suppression system, and (2) upon the request of the consumer or property owner for the delivery of water to the property for the purpose of fire service protection. The rates for the monthly commercial Fire Service Charges are established on the basis of the size of the connection (in inches) serving a property and is calculated to recover the costs of providing water to such properties for private fire service protection. The District also imposes an AMI Opt-Out Charge for customers wishing to opt-out of having automated meter infrastructure installed on their property.

Current and Proposed Rates. The District is proposing adjusting and increasing the rates for its water service fees for five years. If approved, the rates will be effective for water services provided on and after March 1, 2026, and will be increased each January 1 thereafter as set forth in the tables below. The rates that may be implemented beginning March 1, 2026, and each January 1 thereafter, are the maximum rates that may be imposed by the District in each of those years. Prior to implementing the rates, however, the District will review its projected costs for each year to determine if the full amount of any rate increases is necessary.

Water Rate Schedule	Current Rates	Proposed Water Rates				
		Effective 3/1/2026	Effective 1/1/2027	Effective 1/1/2028	Effective 1/1/2029	Effective 1/1/2030
Fixed Service Charge – Monthly						
5/8-inch	\$20.05	\$20.72	\$22.18	\$23.74	\$25.41	\$27.19
3/4-inch	\$20.05	\$20.72	\$22.18	\$23.74	\$25.41	\$27.19
1-inch Dual Service-Residential	\$20.05	\$20.72	\$22.18	\$23.74	\$25.41	\$27.19
1-inch	\$28.31	\$30.67	\$32.82	\$35.12	\$37.58	\$40.22
1.5-inch	\$48.94	\$55.54	\$59.43	\$63.60	\$68.06	\$72.83
2-inch	\$73.71	\$85.38	\$91.36	\$97.76	\$104.61	\$111.94
3-inch	\$152.12	\$229.62	\$245.70	\$262.90	\$281.31	\$301.01
4-inch	\$267.68	\$503.19	\$538.42	\$576.11	\$616.44	\$659.60
6-inch	\$544.19	\$1,000.58	\$1,070.63	\$1,145.58	\$1,225.78	\$1,311.59
8-inch	N/A	\$1,746.66	\$1,868.93	\$1,999.76	\$2,139.75	\$2,289.54
10-inch	N/A	\$2,741.44	\$2,933.35	\$3,138.69	\$3,358.40	\$3,593.49

How to Participate.

Submit a Written Protest

Any record owner of a parcel upon which the water service fees are proposed to be imposed and any tenant directly liable 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 rate increases to the District's water service fees; however, only one protest will be counted per identified parcel. Any written protest must: (1) state that the identified property owner or tenant is opposed to the proposed rate increases; (2) provide the location of the identified parcel (by street address, assessor's parcel number, or customer account number); and (3) include the name and signature of the property owner or tenant submitting the protest. Written protests may be submitted by mail or in person to the District General Manager at 72401 Hatch Road, Twentynine Palms, California, 92277, or at the Public Hearing, so long as they are received prior to the close 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 valid written protest. Please indicate on the outside of any envelope mailed to the District Attn: Rate Hearing.

Submit a Written Legal Objection

In addition to submitting a written protest, any record owner of a parcel subject to the proposed water service fees, and any tenant directly liable for payment of water service fees, may submit a written legal objection. The written legal objection is separate from the protest procedure described above.

In order to be valid, written legal objections must:

- Indicate that the submission is a legal objection.
- Specify the grounds for the proposed water rates' noncompliance with Proposition 218 in sufficient detail to allow the District to determine whether any adjustments are necessary. Please note that a statement that the proposed rates are too high, or that they are illegal without explaining the basis for such claim, will be insufficient and will not constitute a valid legal objection because it does not provide the District sufficient information to determine whether any changes must be made to the proposed water rates.
- Provide property address or assessor's parcel number.
- Include the signature of the record owner or customer of record.

Legal objections may be mailed or hand delivered to the District General Manager at 72401 Hatch Road, Twentynine Palms, California, 92277, provided the legal objection must be received by the General Manager no later than 5:00 P.M. on February 18, 2026 . Failure to Submit a legal objection in time to be received by the District by 5:00 P.M. on February 18, 2026 will bar any right to challenge the proposed water rates through a legal proceeding.

The written basis supporting the water rates may be found at the following website: <https://29palmswater.com/wp-content/uploads/TPWD-2025-Rate-Study-Report-FINAL-12-11-25.pdf>. In addition, any person wishing to receive a hard copy of the written basis may contact District staff.

Attend the Public Hearing

All members of the public are invited to attend the public hearing, and may provide oral testimony at the public hearing. At the public hearing, the Board of Directors will accept and consider all written protests and will hear and consider all oral comments to the proposed rate increases at the Public Hearing. Oral comments at the Public Hearing will not qualify as formal protests unless accompanied by a written protest.

Upon the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the Board of Directors will consider adoption of the proposed rate increases. If written protests against the proposed rates are not presented by a majority of the property owners or tenants of the identified parcels subject to the proposed rate increases, the Board of Directors will be authorized to adopt the rate increases. Details regarding the proposed water service fees are available at the District offices (location noted above) or on the District's website at www.29palmswater.com.

Under California Government Code section 53759, there is a 120-day statute of limitations for challenging the proposed water rate increases, which commences on the date the resolution adopting the proposed water rate increases is adopted.