



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR WATER RATES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Concerning Proposed Changes to Water Rates and Service Charges



DATE: Wednesday, April 26, 2023

TIME: 5 p.m.

Helix Water District Boardroom, 7811 University Ave., La Mesa

TO JOIN US ON ZOOM

Meeting ID: 863 8539 4601

Password: 924748

TO JOIN THIS MEETING

VIA PHONE, please
dial: 1-669-900-6833 or
1-669-444-9171

This notice is being provided to you by Helix Water District (Helix) pursuant to California Constitution Article XIID, also known as Proposition 218. Under the terms of Proposition 218, Helix is required to notify the property owners of record of proposed changes to property-related fees, such as water service.

This serves as notice that the Helix Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing, at the time, date and location specified above, to consider recommended adjustments to Helix's water service rates and charges. If approved, the proposed adjustments would first appear on bills on July 1, 2023, for rates effective May 1, 2023, and be adjusted each May 1 through May 1, 2026. All members of the public are invited to attend the public hearing. Additionally, under California state law, all property owners and customers of record may submit a written protest to the proposed rate changes. Only one protest per parcel is permitted. Please refer to the "How Can I Participate?" section of this document for instructions on submitting a formal written protest against the proposed action. All written protests will be verified. You may also appear at the public hearing at the date and time specified above. More information is available online at [hwd.fyi/rates](https://www.hwd.fyi/rates).

Please note that there is a 120-day statute of limitations for challenging the water service rates and charges included herein.

CUSTOMER SERVICE: 619-466-0585

Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

HWD.FYI/RATES



Helix
WATER DISTRICT

Why are rate changes necessary?

A cost-of-service study conducted for Helix by an independent rate consultant determined the cost of providing water service and the revenue required to maintain current service levels. The analysis identified these factors behind the proposed rates and charges: rising operations costs and inflation; capital projects and financial stability.






Protecting Water Quality and Reliability

Maintaining and modernizing our extensive water delivery system is a critical component of providing reliable service and protecting the quality of our supplies.

Every pump, tank, pipe, valve, hydrant and meter in our system is on its own cycle of operation, maintenance and replacement. Helix has a Capital Improvement Program to plan for these expenses, which are funded by water rates.

In addition to prioritizing projects, the plan helps ensure uninterrupted operations, avoid costly emergency repairs and prepare for major expenditures.


Upgrades include:


-  **Replacing** 6+ miles of pipeline in La Mesa, Lemon Grove, El Cajon and unincorporated San Diego County.
-  **Improving** the Johnstown Pump Station in El Cajon and the Chet Harritt Pump Station in Lakeside.
-  **Renovating** the tank at our regional treatment plant and recoating the Windsor and Aldwych tanks in La Mesa.
-  **Adding** Operations Center equipment to meet the upcoming state regulations that mandate a zero-emissions vehicle fleet.
-  **Enhancing** Helix computer systems to better serve customers.



Water Rate Structure

Fixed vs. Variable Charges: The proposed rate structure includes a bimonthly fixed charge, imposed upon all customers based on the size of the meter serving the property, and a volumetric rate determined by the amount of water delivered to each parcel, measured in units. One unit equals 748 gallons.

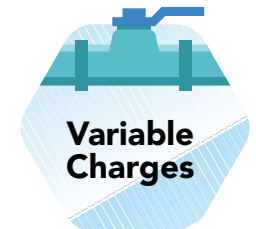
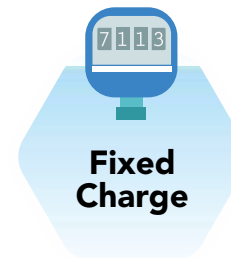
 The **Fixed Charge** covers a portion of the District's fixed costs, San Diego County Water Authority fixed costs, customer service, human resources, a portion of capital, meters and service.

 The **Variable Charge** covers the remainder of the District's fixed costs, as well as expenses such as purchased water, treatment, pumping and other costs that connect directly to the amount of water used.



Why have I received this notice?

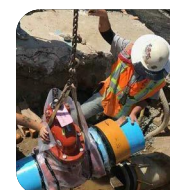
Helix Water District is considering a four-year schedule of changes to water rates and charges that could affect your bimonthly bill. Helix is proposing changes to:



Property owners and customers of record, including customers who may be impacted by these changes are receiving this notice and are invited to provide feedback that the Board of Directors will consider prior to voting on the proposal.

What are pass-through charges?

To ensure there is enough revenue to provide water service, Helix is proposing an annual pass-through to customers of any increases in the rates for wholesale water and other charges that the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) imposes on Helix. Known as pass-through adjustments, these changes will impact the Fixed and Variable Charges for all customer classes, including Single Family Residential, Multi-Family Residential, Commercial/Government and Irrigation customers set forth in the tables included in this document. If approved, Helix's Board of Directors may implement any SDCWA pass-through adjustment at any time during the five-year period commencing May 1, 2023, through and including May 1, 2028, provided that (1) any increase resulting from any SDCWA pass-through adjustment shall not cause any component of the rates to increase by more than fifteen percent in any year; (2) in no event shall rates be increased by more than the cost of providing water service; and (3) Helix shall provide all customers a minimum 30-day written notice prior to implementing any SDCWA pass-through adjustment.



Did you know?

As a public agency, Helix Water District cannot earn a profit from the services it provides and must charge no more than the costs associated with providing services to its customers.

Proposed Fixed Charge

The District bills customers for water service every two months. The bimonthly Fixed Charge is related to the fixed cost recovery of the District, regardless of the amount of water used.

METER SIZE	CURRENT CHARGE	PROPOSED Effective 5/1/23	PROPOSED Effective 5/1/24	PROPOSED Effective 5/1/25	PROPOSED Effective 5/1/26
Less than or equal to 3/4"	\$56.29	\$60.39	\$62.75	\$65.20	\$67.75
1"	\$81.09	\$88.22	\$91.67	\$95.25	\$98.97
1½"	\$167.94	\$185.64	\$192.88	\$200.41	\$208.23
2"	\$254.78	\$283.06	\$294.10	\$305.57	\$317.49
3"	\$558.72	\$624.02	\$648.36	\$673.65	\$699.93
4"	\$949.50	\$1,062.39	\$1,103.83	\$1,146.88	\$1,191.61
6"	\$2,004.00	\$2,245.31	\$2,332.88	\$2,423.87	\$2,518.41
8"	\$3,492.69	\$3,915.31	\$4,068.01	\$4,226.67	\$4,391.52

Proposed Variable Charges

The Variable Charge is a unit charge for the amount of water used. Helix Water District uses a tiered rate structure for Single-Family Residential customers that charges a higher rate to those who use more water, ensuring that higher costs associated with increased water use are paid for by those that drive the District to incur those costs. Irrigation is on a two-tiered budget-based rate structure with Tier 1 reflecting a water budget based on irrigable area and Tier 2 capturing usage over each Irrigation account's budget. Additional detail on how the budget is calculated can be found in the cost-of-service study on file with the District. (1 unit = 748 gallons)

CUSTOMER CLASS	CURRENT CHARGE PER UNIT	PROPOSED Effective 5/1/23	PROPOSED Effective 5/1/24	PROPOSED Effective 5/1/25	PROPOSED Effective 5/1/26
Single-Family Residential					
Tier 1 (0-12 units)	\$5.99	\$6.14	\$6.38	\$6.63	\$6.89
Tier 2 (13-26 units)	\$6.34	\$6.45	\$6.71	\$6.98	\$7.26
Tier 3 (27+units)	\$7.93	\$7.86	\$8.17	\$8.49	\$8.83
Multi-Family Residential	\$6.34	\$6.48	\$6.74	\$7.01	\$7.29
Commercial/Government	\$6.42	\$6.53	\$6.79	\$7.06	\$7.34
Irrigation					
Tier 1 (Up to Water Budget)	\$6.71	\$6.63	\$6.89	\$7.16	\$7.44
Tier 2 (Over Water Budget)	\$7.86	\$7.60	\$7.90	\$8.21	\$8.54

Proposed Dedicated Fire Line Charge

The bimonthly Dedicated Fire Line Charge is a fixed charge that covers the cost of providing water system fire flow capacity and maintenance. These charges only apply to properties on which a fire service lateral has been installed. The District bills customers for water service every two months.

LATERAL SIZE	CURRENT CHARGE	PROPOSED Effective 5/1/23	PROPOSED Effective 5/1/24	PROPOSED Effective 5/1/25	PROPOSED Effective 5/1/26
3/4"	\$3.13	\$2.47	\$2.57	\$2.68	\$2.79
1"	\$4.17	\$3.29	\$3.42	\$3.56	\$3.70
1 1/2"	N/A	\$4.94	\$5.13	\$5.34	\$5.55
2"	\$8.34	\$6.58	\$6.84	\$7.11	\$7.39
3"	N/A	\$9.87	\$10.26	\$10.67	\$11.09
4"	\$16.67	\$13.16	\$13.68	\$14.22	\$14.78
6"	\$25.01	\$19.74	\$20.51	\$21.31	\$22.15
8"	\$33.34	\$26.32	\$27.35	\$28.42	\$29.53
10"	\$41.68	\$32.90	\$34.19	\$35.53	\$36.92

How Can I Participate?

Helix Water District welcomes your participation and input throughout the process as the Board of Directors considers the changes explained in this notice. If you have any questions or comments about the proposed adjustments, you can:



CALL, VISIT OR LOG ON. The cost-of-service study and more information on the proposed changes are available for review on our website: hwd.fyi/rates, or by calling 619-466-0585.



JOIN OUR COMMUNITY MEETING. For more information and to ask questions about the proposed rates, please attend the community meeting on **April 12, 2023, at 6 p.m. in the Boardroom at Helix Water District, 7811 University Ave., La Mesa.** For Zoom login information, please see the mailing panel.



WRITE. We encourage you to reach out with any questions. Should you wish to protest the proposed changes, owners of real property who will be affected by the proposed rate changes, as well as tenants who will be directly responsible for payment, may file a written protest against the proposed rate adjustment; however, only one written protest per parcel shall be counted in calculating a majority protest. Written protests will be treated as public records once opened. Written protests may be mailed, placed in our dropbox or submitted in person at **Helix Water District, 7811 University Ave., La Mesa, CA 91942-0427, Attn: Board Secretary.** Protests must specify that they are submitted in opposition to the proposed rates, and must include: your name, parcel number and/or service address, and your signature. Objections submitted by email or other electronic means do not count as formal written protests per State statute. All written protests must be received prior to the conclusion of the public input portion of the public hearing in order to be considered by the Board of Directors.



ATTEND THE PUBLIC HEARING. Members of the public are welcome to attend the public hearing regarding the proposed rate changes. The public hearing will take place on **Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 5 p.m.**, in person and via Zoom. At the public hearing, all members of the public will have an opportunity to speak and give testimony regarding the proposed rate adjustments; however, only written protests count toward a majority protest and may be delivered in person during the hearing.

Should the District determine that, due to a state of emergency or public health concerns, the meeting at which the hearing will be held will be entirely virtual, in accordance with AB 361 or other applicable law, information to that effect will be posted on the District's website as soon as such information is available, and will be included on the meeting agenda for the public hearing to the extent possible.



Public Hearing Process

At the time of the public hearing, the Board of Directors will hear and consider all written protests and public comments. After the public hearing, if protests are submitted on behalf of a majority of separate parcels by property owners or customers of record, the proposed rate increases will not be adopted. If a majority written protest is not received, the Board may adopt the proposed changes to the rates, though it is not obligated to do so. If adopted, the new rates would first appear on bills on July 1, 2023, for water used beginning May 1, 2023, and be adjusted each May 1 through May 1, 2026.

To see how these rates might impact you, check out our bill estimator at hwd.fyi/rates.



Helix
WATER DISTRICT

Helix Water District
7811 University Avenue
La Mesa, CA 91942-0427

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR WATER RATES

*Please join us at a community meeting on
Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 6 p.m.
Helix Water District Boardroom, 7811 University Ave.*

TO JOIN US ON ZOOM

Meeting ID: 868 1534 1141

Password: 245575

TO JOIN THIS MEETING

VIA PHONE, please

dial: 1-669-900-6833 or

1-669-444-9171

Helix Helps

Helix participates in the federally-funded household assistance program that assists low-income customers with paying their outstanding water bills. For information on how to receive this support, visit [hwd.fyi/bill-relief](https://www.hwd.fyi/bill-relief) or call **619-466-0585**.

Este documento es importante para todos los clientes de Helix Water District. Para su comodidad, este aviso en español se puede encontrar dentro este documento.