

**SUISUN/SOLANO WATER AUTHORITY (SSWA)  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING  
PROPOSED WATER RATES  
October 12th, 2021 at 6:00 pm**

You are receiving this notice in compliance with California Constitution Article XIII D Section 6 (Proposition 218) requiring that all impacted property owners be mailed notice of proposed rate changes at least 45 days prior to a public hearing. In addition, Government Code section 53755 authorizes that notices be mailed to customers who are billed for the service. Proposition 218 also establishes a protest process for the public to follow if they wish to oppose the proposed rates.

**Informational Meetings on the Proposed Water Rate Adjustments**

In advance of the October 12, 2021 public hearing, the Suisun/Solano Water Authority (SSWA) Staff will present the analysis, answer questions and receive public comments at three (3) informational meetings:

**Informational Meetings**

***IN PERSON MEETING:***

- 1. Wednesday, September 22, 2021, 6:00 p.m. at the Salvation Army Ray & Joan Kroc Center, 586 E. Wigeon Way, Suisun City – Masks Required by the Kroc Center**

***ZOOM MEETINGS:***

- 2. Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 11:00 a.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83418664563?pwd=cHYrNnpITHdIQ2hCcFNrTE5UbzZVUT09>

Meeting ID: 834 1866 4563

Passcode: 089938

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,83418664563#,,,,\*089938# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,83418664563#,,,,\*089938# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 834 1866 4563

Passcode: 089938

- 3. Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 3:00 p.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86004948335?pwd=SXpMM1c5NkxRR2xZR25tK0lFdTkvZz09>

Meeting ID: 860 0494 8335

Passcode: 526239

One tap mobile

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+13462487799,,86004948335#,,,,\*526239# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 860 0494 8335

Passcode: 526239

**Public Hearing is scheduled as an *IN PERSON MEETING*\*:**

**4. October 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, at the Suisun City Council Chambers, 701 Civic Center Boulevard, Suisun City**

**\*If the Governor's Executive Order allowing for Remote Board Meetings is extended beyond September 30, 2021, then the public may participate at the October 12, 2021, 6:00 p.m. public Hearing also via ZOOM.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88532500425>

Meeting ID: 885 3250 0425

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,88532500425# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,88532500425# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 885 3250 0425

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88532500425>

**Basis and Reasons for the Proposed Increase in Water System Revenues**

SSWA levies a variety of water rates, charges and assessments for water services provided to its customers. The proposed water rates are for existing services and customers only and reflect the cost to SSWA for providing water service to its customers. Water rates are required to be set at levels sufficient to cover the costs of: 1) ongoing operations and maintenance; 2) construction, upgrade, repair and replacement of water systems facilities; 3) long-term debt obligations; 4) acquisition of materials and supplies; 5) labor and administration; and 6) maintenance of adequate reserves. Water rates DO NOT cover costs associated with additional capacity or facilities for future customers (i.e., growth).

SSWA recently updated its multi-year financial plan by conducting a comprehensive cost-of-service water rate study. The rate study entitled *Water Rate Study for the Suisun/Solano Water Authority*, July 2021 along with related staff reports, are available for public review at the Suisun City Civic Center, 701 Civic Center Blvd. or, on the City's website ([www.suisun.com/departments/administrative-services/utility-services/](http://www.suisun.com/departments/administrative-services/utility-services/)). The last water rate study titled, *Water Rate Study for the Suisun-Solano Water Authority, January 30, 2015*, determined that it was necessary to increase water rates over five years according to the following schedule: 19% effective fiscal year 2015-16, 8% effective fiscal year 2016-17, and 5% for the following three fiscal years (2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20).

As a result of the 2021 cost-of-service water rate study, the SSWA Board has determined that it is necessary to increase total revenue collected from water rates over three years by 3% effective November 16, 2021, and then on July 1 of each of the following two years by 4%, and 5% (i.e., FY 2022/23 through FY 2023/24). See *Table 1. SSWA Current and Proposed Water Rates* included this Notice for detailed breakout of the current and proposed water rates based on water meter size and commodity charge. This increase over a three-year period will generate the minimal funding needed for aging infrastructure replacement and to keep up with general cost escalations. At this time, the SSWA Board

is proposing to adopt increased rates for three years in order to allow for the completion of the SSWA capital asset assessment report which will provide guidance for the required rate increase to fund capital asset replacement and betterment. The proposed three-year rate increases will maintain the Operating Fund at the board approved 25% of operating expenses, and fund currently identified Capital Replacement Fund assets, assets not yet identified as requiring replacement or refurbishment, and emergency asset replacements. The proposed rate increases will also maintain a Capital Replacement Fund cash balance that allows for uninterrupted adherence to planned asset replacements and generate increased revenues consistent with the updated financial plan.

### **Amount of the Proposed Water Rates**

Specific water bills for individual customers will vary based on the amount of water actually consumed. Your current water bill will indicate your service level and the amount of water consumed. You may also go to the City's website ([www.suisun.com/i-want-to/pay-my-water-bill/](http://www.suisun.com/i-want-to/pay-my-water-bill/)) and review your water usage online.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed water rates, please contact the Elizabeth Luna at the SSWA Billing Office located at 701 Civic Center Blvd., Suisun City, CA 94585, by either telephone at (707) 421-3215 or by e-mail at [eluna@suisun.com](mailto:eluna@suisun.com).

### **Written Protests**

Any affected property owner, tenant and/or customer may submit a written protest to the proposed water rates; provided, however, only one protest will be counted per identified property. Each protest must: (1) be in writing; (2) state that you oppose the proposed water rates; (3) identify the property for which the protest is made (by assessor's parcel number or street address and number); (4) whether you are the property owner or the person receiving water service; and (5) include the name and signature of the property owner or customer. Protests submitted by e-mail, facsimile or other electronic means *will not be counted*. Written protests may be submitted by mail to: **SSWA Board Secretary, 701 Civic Center Blvd., Suisun City, CA 94585**, or at the public hearing, so long as the protests are received before the public hearing ends on October 12, 2021. Please identify on the envelope of any written protest, whether mailed or submitted in person to the **SSWA Board Secretary**, that the enclosed written protest is for the Public Hearing on the Proposed Water Rates. You have the right to withdraw your written protest prior to the conclusion of the public hearing.

During the public hearing, the Board will hear public comments, and count and consider all written protests received by the deadline (not postmarked). The Board will not consider or count any protest submitted after the close of the public hearing. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Board will decide whether to adopt the proposed water rates. While the Board welcomes your comments, oral comments at the public hearing will not qualify as formal protests unless accompanied by a written protest. If, at the end of the public hearing, written protests to the proposed water rates are not presented by a majority of affected property owners/customers, the Board will be authorized to adopt the rates if they so decide. If adopted, the proposed rates will become effective November 16, 2021, and will be increased annually on July 1 thereafter, as set forth in the rate schedule on the back of this Notice.

**Dated: August 16, 2021**

**Table 1. SSWA Current and Proposed Water Rates**

Suisun/Solano Water Authority Current and Proposed Water Rates					
Water Rate Schedule		Current Rates	Proposed Rates <sup>1</sup>		
			FY 2021/22	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24
<b>Fixed Charges:</b>		<b>No. of Meters</b>			
5/8 x 3/4 inch	7,952	\$55.15	\$58.12	\$60.45	\$63.47
3/4 inch	23	\$55.15	\$58.12	\$60.45	\$63.47
1 inch	280	\$87.55	\$92.31	\$96.00	\$100.80
1 1/2 inch	150	\$109.15	\$115.10	\$119.70	\$125.69
2 inch	77	\$217.14	\$229.06	\$238.22	\$250.13
3 inch	17	\$325.13	\$365.80	\$380.43	\$399.46
4 inch	5	\$433.12	\$570.92	\$593.76	\$623.45
6 inch	3	\$1,081.06	\$1,140.70	\$1,186.33	\$1,245.64
<b>Commodity Charges for All Water Usage (\$/ccf*):</b>					
Uniform Rate		\$2.49	\$2.84	\$2.95	\$3.10
1. These rates collect 51% of the total rate revenue from the fixed charges and 49% from the commodity charges. *ccf=100 cubic feet , or approximately 748 gallons					