

**SUISUN/SOLANO WATER AUTHORITY (SSWA)  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING  
PROPOSED WATER RATES FOR 2024-2027  
September 9, 2024, at 6:00 pm**

The Suisun Solano Water Authority (SSWA), a Joint Powers Authority comprised of the city of Suisun City and Solano Irrigation District, has set a public hearing for September 9, 2024, to consider adopting new rates and charges for water delivery and service in its service area (water rates). The proposed water rates represent an increase in existing water rates that will support a cost-of-service structure consistent with current law.

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.

**Proposal:**

The proposed water rates for the delivery of water are intended to provide revenue for SSWA's water system operation and maintenance. The water rates will be adjusted annually to provide for future costs, as shown in the Table below. The tables(s) are provided to help you identify how your costs for water service will change for the next three years.

**Summary of Reason for the Proposed Rates:**

SSWA provides treated water services to the City of Suisun City. Currently, SSWA serves 8,084 single family residential and 428 multi-family and non-residential accounts. The reasons for the proposed rates are to provide safe and reliable water to each customer based on the actual cost of providing this service and the cost of anticipated ongoing maintenance and capital costs.

The proposed water rates were developed based on SSWA's costs to provide water service and taking into account future annual operating costs and budgeted repair and replacement expenses by evaluating the prior years audited financial data, while factoring in inflation.

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

In advance of the September 9, 2024, 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**

*TWO IN PERSON MEETINGS, held at the Suisun City Council Chambers, 701 Civic Center Boulevard, Suisun City*

1. **Saturday, August 24, 2024, 10:00 a.m.**
2. **Monday, August 26, 2024, 6:00 p.m.**

**ONE ZOOM MEETING**

3. **Thursday, August 22, 2024, 6:00 p.m.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85901380361?pwd=TVQ4bFUyVXBNDc9xaXIROE5GcjcxZz09>

Zoom Meeting ID: 859 0138 0361

Passcode: 522691

Teleconference Dial In +1 669 900 9128

*(Please note, if the Zoom meeting link provided does not work, copy the link into the web browser, or directly enter the meeting ID into the Zoom web or mobile application.)*

**Notice of Public Hearing:**

**September 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, at the Suisun City Council Chambers, 701 Civic Center Boulevard, Suisun City**

**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*, May 2024 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 (<https://www.suisun.com/files/sharedassets/suisuncity/v/1/departments/finance-department/documents/sswa/sswareportph.pdf> ).

As a result of the 2024 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 2.75% effective on or near December 1, 2024, and then on July 1 of each of the following two years by 8.51%, and 8.51% (i.e., FY 2025/26 through FY 2026/27). 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 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.

The 2024 cost-of service water rate study, in accordance with the drought stages in SSWA's Water Shortage Contingency plan, in the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan pages 84 through 86, Drought Commodity/Variable water rates are proposed. SSWA staff provide estimated additional operating costs related to implementation of drought measures, of \$200,000, to include labor to monitor reduced water usage, public outreach/information, and treatment costs, and Drought Response Rates (also referred to as "Demand Reduction Rates" are included in the NBS prepared 2024 Study. There were no demand reduction rates included in the 2021 Study, which accounted for the SSWA's ongoing costs to fund operation and maintenance of the water treatment plants in event of a drought.

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

Rates for the volume of water consumed are detailed below. Specific water bills for individual customers will vary based on the amount of water 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 (<https://www.suisun.com/Departments/Finance-Department/Pay-my-water-bill>) and review your water usage online.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed water rates, please contact Elizabeth Luna at the SSWA Billing Office located at 701 Civic Center Blvd., Suisun City, CA 94585, by either telephone at [\(707\) 421-3215](tel:7074213215) or by e-mail at [eluna@suisun.com](mailto:eluna@suisun.com).

### **How do I Oppose the Proposed Water Rate Increase? 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*. Oral comments will also 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 September 9, 2024. 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. Only one protest per property will be counted.

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 not sooner than 30 days upon their adoption, and will be increased annually on July 1 thereafter, as set forth in the rate schedule on the back of this Notice.

NOTE – pursuant to Government Code section 53759, there is a 120-day statute of limitations for challenging any new, increased, or extended fee or charge.

**Dated: July 17, 2024**

**Table 1. SSWA Current and Proposed Water Rates for Annual Revenue Requirements.**

<b>Current and Proposed Water Rates</b>				
<b>These Rate Apply to All SSWA Ratepayers</b>				
<b>Water Rate Schedule/Scenario 2 Smoothed</b>	<b>Current Rates</b>	<b>Proposed Rates</b>		
		<b>FY 2024/25</b>	<b>FY 2025/26</b>	<b>FY 2026/27</b>
<b><i>Fixed Charges:</i></b>				
5/8 x 3/4 inch and 3/4 inch	\$63.47	\$68.87	\$74.73	\$81.09
1 inch	\$100.80	\$109.27	\$118.57	\$128.66
1 1/2 inch	\$125.69	\$136.20	\$147.79	\$160.37
2 inch	\$250.13	\$270.88	\$293.93	\$318.95
3 inch	\$399.46	\$432.49	\$469.29	\$509.23
4 inch	\$623.45	\$674.91	\$732.34	\$794.67
6 inch	\$1,245.64	\$1,348.29	\$1,463.03	\$1,587.53
<b><i>Commodity Charges for All Water Usage (\$/ccf, one ccf is approximately 748 gallons):</i></b>				
Uniform Rate per ccf	\$3.10	\$3.05	\$3.31	\$3.59

**Table 2. SSWA Proposed Demand Reduction Rates**

	<b>Suisun/Solano Water Authority</b>		
	<b>Proposed Demand Reduction Rates</b>		
	<b>For all SSWA Rate Payers</b>		
	<b>FY 2024/25</b>	<b>FY 2025/26</b>	<b>FY 2026/27</b>
Conservation Goal			
0%	\$3.05	\$3.31	\$3.59
Up to 10%	\$3.37	\$3.66	\$3.98
Up to 20%	\$3.77	\$4.10	\$4.45
Up to 30%	\$4.29	\$4.66	\$5.06
Up to 40%	\$4.97	\$5.40	\$5.87
Up to 50%	\$5.93	\$6.45	\$7.01
Greater than 50%	\$7.37	\$8.02	\$8.72