

Minutes

WASHINGTON COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Special Meeting

October 13th , 2020

6:15 P.M.

Washington School

Please Note: In compliance with the Federal "Americans with Disabilities Act", any person who requires special accommodations in order to attend or participate in the meeting, please contact 265-4720 - prior to the meeting.

Open Meeting : 6:18

Approval of the Agenda: Charity J. motion Alyssa W. 2nd. All Approved

Public Comment on Agenda item only : Public no show . No Comments

Water Agency Meeting 6:18

I. New Business

A. Review letter of Notice to property owners of the upcoming Rate Changes: (Amy B. Alyssa W.) All Board Members were present and read over the letter of Notice to Property owners of the upcoming Rate Changes. (see attachment) Board asks that the letter be sent out by the end of the week. Board Members voted on the letter with Debbie S. motioned Kass K. 2nd all Approved.

Close of the Water District Meeting: 6:23

**IF ANY BOARD MEMBER NEED TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIA CONFERENCE CALL,
OR ANYONE WISHING TO JOIN THE MEETING BY CONFERENCE CALL CAN DIAL
1-978-990-5000 WITH THE CODE OF 890273# FOR ALL BUT CLOSED SESSIONS.**

To all of our valued Washington residents and customers,

There will be some great changes to the water billing structure and rates set forth by the Washington County Water District (WCWD). As a board we have come to the decision to do what is financially necessary to remain our own special water district. In assessing our budget, we found that it was imperative to make paying the fair share for businesses, residents, and renters a priority, while keeping in mind our rising fire danger risk.

Upon doing extensive research and digging, we have found that there are many properties that contain multiple dwellings with renters residing in them. *A dwelling is an occupied place where a person lives treating it as their home, for the purposes of housing and rent legislation and which may become the object of protection such as a statutory secure tenancy (ie. a trailer, cabin, granny unit, ect.).*

We came to a decision that these renters are permanent residents that are accessing WCWD's water and should therefore contribute accordingly. This being said, these renters will have their own bill at the new base rate. Property owners will not be held responsible for unpaid accounts. **If you do not correspond by November 1st 2020, then the property owner will be billed accordingly to what the WCWD determines based on the property's number of dwellings and if the dwelling has a full-time renter.**

The great news is that water will now be unlimited, meaning you will not pay for water use overage. **However, water is not to be used in an excessive manner.** Please use the water responsibly. Our system can only handle so much, so we will still be reading meters to record and monitor water usage, theft, and leaks. We felt it was important to make this change to better suit our newly deemed Firewise Community.

The WCWD will be collecting billing information for each resident. We need each property owner to disclose how many dwellings are on their property. This is not meant to invade anyone's privacy, but rather to create transparency and fairness. We need everyone's honesty and their contributions to stay in our own district. WCWD will be working with a private third party to confirm the number of dwellings on each property. We hope everyone understands how unique our town and special district are, and that we really need this change.

In an effort to meet our newly proposed budget here are the following changes:

1. We will be increasing the monthly base rate to \$60/month for all permanent residents of Washington (this includes those who reside permanently in: both campground or in a trailer, cabin, or granny unit on another person's property), which will include unlimited gallons (**not to be used in an excessive manner**). There will be a 2% increase each year to the base rate.

2. All yearly campers (vacationers only allowed to stay a total of 60 days out of the year) from both campgrounds as well as extra dwellings on vacation properties (that are not occupied by a full time renter) will pay \$10/month. There will be a 2% increase each year to the base rate.

3. Business' base rate will increase to \$159/month, which will include unlimited gallons (**not to be used in an excessive manner**). Businesses with Transient Occupancy Tax licences (TOTL) will pay a 2% fee for transients. There will be a 2% increase each year to the base rate.

The WCWD will be implementing the new base rate structure on January 1st 2021. We need your correspondence by November 1st 2020, which will include all names and mailing addresses of any persons residing/renting on properties with multiple dwellings. If you do not correspond by November 1st 2020, then the property owner will be billed accordingly to what the WCWD determines based on the property's number of dwellings.

Included is a form for you to fill out with the number of dwellings on your property and names and mailing addresses of your renters. You can either mail it back to us, PO Box 34 Washington Ca, 95986, or drop in our drop slot on the door of our office behind the firehouse.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

The Washington County Water District Board Members,

Deborah Shipley, Board President
Kass Kozloski, Board Vice President
Amy Boyle, Board Member
Charity Jackson, Board Member
Alyssa Wittler, Board Member

Customer Type	New Monthly Base Rate	Increase each year
Regular	\$60	2%
Business	\$159+ 2% fee on transients (TOTL)	2%
Yearly campers/ vacationer's extra dwellings	\$10	2%

Declaration of Dwellings and Occupant Information Form

PLEASE respond by NOV 1st, 2020 to p.o. box 34 or the drop box at the office.

Our third Party consultant will be counting dwellings on all properties receiving a water bill. It is the property owner's responsibility to provide accurate dwelling counts and renter's information. If WCWD does not receive a response, **ALL** dwellings will be counted as occupied. Thank you for your time!

NOT including the primary residence, how many **OCCUPIED** dwellings are on your property? _____

How many unoccupied dwellings are on your property? _____

Please provide Occupant information so WCWD can properly bill customers. (Name, Phone, Email, Mailing address) Please use back of form if needed. Thank you!

1. Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
Email: _____ Mailing Address: _____

2. Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
Email: _____ Mailing Address: _____

3. Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
Email: _____ Mailing Address: _____

4. Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
Email: _____ Mailing Address: _____

5. Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
Email: _____ Mailing Address: _____

6. Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
Email: _____ Mailing Address: _____