

**NOTIFICATION OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED WYNOLA WATER DISTRICT WATER SERVICE RATES AND CHARGES INCREASE THAT MAY AFFECT YOU**

**HEARING DATE AND TIME: Saturday, December 20, 2014 at 10:00 AM**

**HEARING LOCATION: Spencer Valley School, 4414 Highway 78/79, Santa Ysabel, CA 92070**

**Proposition 218 Notification** At its July 20, 2014 meeting, the Board of Directors of the Wynola Water District (WWD) voted to raise the Water Rates, Maintenance Fees and Water Availability Assessment Fees in a two-step process. This Public Hearing is to discuss and obtain public input to the first step of the increase: water rates and maintenance fees increase beginning with water bills issued in January 2015. This notice of public hearing is in conformance with Article XIID of the California State Constitution and the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act. The second increase is the Water Availability Assessment Fee which is part of your annual Property Tax Bill. The second increase will require a vote of the property owners. WWD is working with the County on the implementation of the voting process. It is anticipated that the vote will take place in the second quarter of 2015 and would become effective with the 2015-2016 bill.

**Background on Proposal** It has been nine years since the WWD has increased its rates to its customers. Prior to the implementation of Proposition 218, rates were set by the Board and implemented immediately. The Board has been working for the past year and a half to analyze whether a rate increase is needed. Over the last nine years, we have experience increased operating costs, regulatory costs, contract services costs, maintenance and repair costs due to aging infrastructure. In addition, the Board wants to pro-actively perform preventative maintenance to minimize service interruptions and to prolong the life of the equipment. These increased costs have also resulted in a reduction in our financial reserves. In order to be able to afford to maintain the current level of service and proposed pro-active maintenance activities, the Board has determined it is necessary to increase revenue. Your quarterly water bill is made up of a water usage rate and a fixed maintenance fee. As shown in the following table.

	Usage per Quarter	Current Quarterly Rate	After Jan 1, 2015 Quarterly Rate
Maintenance Fee		\$ 21.00	\$ 40.00
Tier 1	0 -130 units	\$ 1.50	\$ 1.75
Tier 2	131 -200 units	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.90
Tier 3	201 + units	\$ 10.00	\$ 11.50
1 unit = 748 gallons			

By looking at your current water bill, you can determine what your water usage is each quarter. In reviewing our data, one third of our customers use less than 23 units per quarter and one third use 80 units or more per quarter with an average usage of 54 units per quarter. The average customer would see an increase of \$32.50 on their quarterly bill. Additionally, your Water Availability Assessment would increase from \$150 per year to \$275 per year with your 2015-2016 Tax Bill with property owner approval.

**Formal Response Process** Interested property owners now have an opportunity to express their support of or opposition to the proposed rate increase. Proposition 218 prohibits WWD from implementing the new rates if a majority of the affected property owners file written protests opposing the rates before the end of the public hearing. Only one written protest per affected property will be counted. Written protests must be received by WWD, either at the hearing or by mail to PO Box 193, Santa Ysabel, CA 92070 before the end of the public hearing. Each protest must identify the affected property by street address or lot number and include the signature of the property owner. In compliance with Proposition 218, e-mail and Fax protests will not be accepted. Although oral comments at the public hearing will not qualify as formal protests, WWD welcomes input from the community during the public hearing. As stated earlier, the formal protest procedure applies only to the first increase of Water Rates and Maintenance Fees. A formal vote is required in order to implement the Water Availability Assessment on the Property Tax Bill.