



Frequently Asked Questions

Proposed Water and Sewer Rate Adjustments

The City of Eureka (the City) will conduct a public hearing in the future, in the City Council Chambers, located at 531 K Street, Eureka, CA 95501 to consider adopting increases and adjustments to the rates of its water and sewer service fees.

Q: What is Proposition 218?

Proposition 218, is a voter measure that passed in November 1996, to ensure that all taxes and certain user fees on property owners are subject to voter approval.

Q: What does this mean for the City of Eureka?

To comply with Prop 218, when imposing or increasing water, sewer, or trash rates the City must:

- * Identify the parcels upon which the fee will be imposed;
- * Calculate the fee (Cost of Service Study);
- * Provide written notice by mail to the record owner or any tenant directly liable for the payment of fees, which included the amount of the fee; basis upon which the fee was calculated; reason for the fee; and the date, time, and location of public hearing (Prop 218 Mailer Notice).

Q: Can I call, or fax in my protest?

No, Proposition 218 requires a written protest with a signature from any record owner of a parcel or any tenant directly liable for the payment of water and sewer fees.

Q: How many protests can be counted per parcel?

Only one protest will be counted per identified parcel.

Q: How many protests are required to stop the proposed rate adjustments from taking effect?

Proposition 218 requires a majority of 50 percent of the affected customers plus one.

Q: When will the new rates be implemented?

The new rates, if adopted, will become effective and operative for all bills sent after August 1, 2017, and each July 1 thereafter.

Q: When was the last time the City adjusted water and sewer rates?

The last time uniformed water and sewer rate adjustment was implemented in July 2013.

Q: Why is the City proposing to increase water and sewer rates?

Operations and maintenance comprise the majority of the City's water operating expenditures. Of these costs, providing for the supply of water comprises the majority of the expense. While the City continually strives for cost reductions and better utilization of the assets it holds, it has determined that rate increases are necessary to enable it to:

- * Recover current and projected increases in the costs of operations and maintenance, including: water supply costs, wastewater discharge costs, infrastructure improvements;
- * Comply with State and Federal mandated regulatory requirements;
- * Avoid operational deficits and depletion of reserves; and
- * Operate the utilities in a financially prudent manner.

Q: Why did I receive multiple notices in the mail?

Notices were sent to all property owners and utility account holders within the City. As these lists are not mutually exclusive, it is possible that you may get more than one notice in the mail. Note that only one protest will be counted per parcel, regardless of the number of owners or tenants.

For more detailed information, please visit www.ci.eureka.ca.gov/????????????????

Thank you,

City of Eureka