PUBLIC INPUT REQUESTED ON AWA RATE ADJUSTMENT PROCESS

Public Workshop, Tuesday, August 26, 6:30 pm, Amador County Administration Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Sutter Creek) The Amador Water Agency Board of Directors will hold an evening public workshop to receive input from AWA customers and stakeholders in advance of anticipated adjustments to AWA water and wastewater rates later this year.

The meeting will be held Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at 6:30 pm in the Amador County Board of Supervisors' Chambers and by videoconference on Zoom.

AWA General Manager Larry McKenney will review progress on improvement projects included in the Agency's 2021 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan and the priority projects needed in the next five years to address health, safety, and reliable service to current customers.

AWA faces a number of operational and funding challenges that have contributed to the need for infrastructure investment today. The most urgent actions in the updated 2025 Capital Improvement Plan include 50 projects identified in an updated Master Plan Study of all AWA facilities, with an estimated cost of $141 million. This is not affordable, so the AWA Board must make hard choices when setting rates.

The workshop will also present information on how multi-year financial plans for water and wastewater services are designed. The public will then have an opportunity to ask questions and comment on the rate study process and the Agency's Master Plan Study findings.

Rate studies are conducted according to industry standards to ensure that a utility's financial health is maintained, that the Agency is setting a course toward meeting future financial obligations, and is in compliance with state law. By state law, water and wastewater rates cannot exceed the cost of service, including investments that will create a reliable, sustainable water system.

The industry standard is to perform comprehensive rate studies every three to five years; AWA's last study was in 2021. The rate study is being performed by a third-party consultant that specializes in setting utility rates.

The meeting agenda and video link are available at AmadorWater.org.

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