AMADOR WATER AGENCY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED INCREASES IN RATES AND CHARGES FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES

DATE & TIME OF PUBLIC HEARING: Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.
LOCATION: American Legion Hall, 11350 American Legion Drive, Sutter Creek

You are receiving this notice because you are either an Amador Water Agency water or wastewater customer or you own or rent property that is receiving water or wastewater service from the Agency. At a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, the Agency's Board of Directors will consider a proposal to adjust rates and charges for water and wastewater service. The public hearing will be held in the American Legion Hall, 11350 American Legion Drive, Sutter Creek. The hearing will start at 6:30 p.m.

Amador Water Agency Water Service

The Amador Water Agency provides water or wastewater service to about 10,000 residential, commercial, industrial, and irrigation customers, as well as to several public agencies, totaling about 24,000 people.

The Agency's water system operation is funded mainly through water rates and service charges. Those revenues are used to pay for the ongoing operation, maintenance, repair, and replacement of the existing water system, including administrative costs and debt service payments. The Agency's population served, in relation to its 568-square-mile service area, is smaller than most. As a result, individual bills are higher because there are fewer customers to share in the costs of operating the water and wastewater systems.

In 2021, after facing years of financial challenges from several causes, including economic recession and prolonged droughts, the Agency made significant changes to rates. At that time, the Agency identified the need to begin addressing a large number of old and failing infrastructure projects as an urgent need to ensure adequate and reliable service. The financial plan behind the 2021 rate increases included improving maintenance of existing facilities to retain their value and becoming creditworthy to allow financing the most urgently needed facilities upgrade (capital) projects.

Since then, the Agency has completed 19 water and wastewater capital projects, recovered the Agency's financial health, and significantly improved the Agency's bond rating in preparation to issue debt to fund more significant and urgent projects. Staffing was slightly increased to improve maintenance. But the Agency staff is still smaller than it was historically -- only possible because of the dedication and skill of our employees. At the same time, costs for electricity, fuel, treatment supplies, and construction costs have approximately doubled in the last five years.

While many improvements have been achieved, a long list of capital projects remains. Our recent Water Master Plan Study Update is at https://amadorwater.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/AWA-Master-Plan-Study-Update-062625.pdf. Most notably, capacity expansion is urgently needed at the Agency's Ione and Tanner Water Treatment Plants, which operate at or near capacity during the summer, creating serious reliability risks.

The Agency's Board developed a financing strategy to accomplish significant improvements to those treatment plants and to replace a water storage tank near Pioneer that is in very poor condition. The Agency issued revenue bonds in 2024 to support this work and has been working on low-interest federal loans to complete construction over the next three years.

The Board has evaluated numerous financial plan options to be able to complete the most critical projects, address other needs that may arise, and keep up with the inflation of other costs the Agency faces. These are hard decisions for the Board to make, but necessary to balance these needs with the need to minimize customer impact. The Board remains committed to finding other ways to fund further projects to avoid more severe rate increases.

Reasons for the Proposed Water and Wastewater Rates and Charges

The proposed water and wastewater rates and charges are necessary to cover the ongoing and increasing cost of providing services, including operation and maintenance costs, debt service obligations, water system replacement and rehabilitation needs, and to establish and maintain prudent financial reserves consistent with established policies. These costs include labor costs, energy, fuel and chemical costs; water and wastewater treatment costs; distribution and collection system costs; administrative and customer service costs; and costs related to replacement, rehabilitation, and upgrade of old and failing system facilities.

The proposed water and wastewater rates and charges are supported by a five-year financial plan. The financial plan determined that current water rates are insufficient and would result in the Agency failing to meet its obligations during the five-year term. In light of the current and estimated future needs of the water and wastewater systems, it is recommended that the Agency increase its water and wastewater rates in each of the next five years in order to: (1) cover all operating and maintenance costs, (2) meet debt service obligations, (3) provide adequate funding to support the capital improvement program, and (4) reach and maintain minimum Operating and Capital Replacement Reserve targets.

Proposed Schedule of Water and Wastewater Rates and Charges

The tables below present the proposed schedules of rates and charges covering a five-year period. Proposed rates follow the existing water and wastewater rate structures and have been adjusted to reflect revenue requirements and cost of service analyses. Water rates include separate uniform water usage rates for retail treated and untreated water service customers. The water rates also include monthly service charges based on the size of the water meter, and fixed monthly debt service charges that vary by both size of the water meter and by service

area. The monthly debt service charges will change as indicated in the first year and then remain constant through the five-year schedule.

Residential wastewater rates are based on typical water use in February and March, reflecting indoor water use. Commercial wastewater rates are also based on winter water usage, and are charged both a monthly service charge and a volumetric charge based on the type of wastewater their commercial activity produces.

For the commodity or volumetric rates in the table below, "hcf" means one hundred cubic feet (748 gallons), which is one billing unit. A typical residence has a 5/8" meter.

Proposed Five-Year Schedules of Water and Wastewater Rates and Charges

Proposed Water Rates	FY 2026 (Current)	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Treated Retail						
Monthly Water Service Charges						
5/8"	$51.55	$56.47	$61.02	$65.90	$71.11	$76.69
3/4"	$69.41	$80.17	$86.64	$93.56	$100.97	$108.89
1"	$105.12	$127.59	$137.88	$148.90	$160.69	$173.30
1 1/2"	$194.45	$246.13	$265.99	$287.24	$309.98	$334.30
2"	$301.63	$388.38	$419.72	$453.25	$489.12	$527.51
3"	$641.04	$838.84	$906.52	$978.94	$1,056.43	$1,139.34
4"	$1,141.22	$1,502.67	$1,623.91	$1,753.64	$1,892.45	$2,040.98
6"	$2,873.95	$3,802.37	$4,109.16	$4,437.43	$4,788.68	$5,164.51
8"	$5,017.58	$6,647.35	$7,183.69	$7,757.58	$8,371.64	$9,028.68
10"	$7,518.45	$9,966.50	$10,770.65	$11,631.09	$12,551.76	$13,536.87
Commodity Rates ($/hcf)						
All Customers	$5.25	$5.72	$6.18	$6.67	$7.20	$7.76

Proposed Water Rates	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
Treated Retail								
Monthly Debt Service Charges	**AWS**	**AWS**	**CAWP**	**CAWP**	**La Mel**	**La Mel**	**Lake Camanche**	**Lake Camanche**
5/8"	$25.41	$24.50	$16.40	$14.74	$17.27	$14.35	$2.96	$1.48
3/4"	$38.11	$36.75	$24.59	$22.10	$25.91	$21.52	$4.44	$2.22
1"	$63.52	$61.25	$40.99	$36.83	$43.18	$35.86	$7.39	$3.69
1 1/2"	$127.03	$122.49	$81.97	$73.66	$86.35	$71.71	$14.78	$7.38
2"	$203.25	$195.98	$131.15	$117.85	$138.16	$114.73	$23.65	$11.81
3"	$444.61	$428.69	$286.89	$257.80	$302.22	$250.96	$51.73	$25.83
4"	$800.29	$771.65	$516.39	$464.03	$543.98	$451.72	$93.11	$46.49
6"	$2,032.49	$1,959.73	$1,311.46	$1,178.49	$1,381.54	$1,147.23	$236.46	$118.07
8"	$3,556.86	$3,429.52	$2,295.05	$2,062.35	$2,417.69	$2,007.64	$413.80	$206.62
10"	$5,335.50	$5,144.28						

Proposed Water Rates	FY 2026 (Current)	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Untreated Retail						
Monthly Water Service Charges						
5/8"	$77.10	$76.69	$82.88	$89.50	$96.58	$104.16
3/4"	$104.52	$110.13	$119.02	$128.53	$138.70	$149.58
1"	$159.34	$177.01	$191.29	$206.58	$222.93	$240.42
1 1/2"	$296.44	$344.22	$371.99	$401.71	$433.50	$467.52
2"	$460.95	$544.86	$588.82	$635.86	$686.19	$740.05
3"	$981.90	$1,180.23	$1,275.46	$1,377.35	$1,486.37	$1,603.03
4"	$1,749.63	$2,116.56	$2,287.34	$2,470.07	$2,665.59	$2,874.79
6"	$4,409.24	$5,360.29	$5,792.79	$6,255.56	$6,750.72	$7,280.55
Commodity Rates ($/ hcf)						
All Customers	$2.77	$2.49	$2.69	$2.91	$3.14	$3.38

Proposed Water Rates	FY 2026 (Current)	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Untreated Retail						
Monthly Debt Service Charges						
5/8"	$5.09	$6.98	$6.98	$6.98	$6.98	$6.98
3/4"	$7.63	$10.46	$10.46	$10.46	$10.46	$10.46
1"	$12.72	$17.44	$17.44	$17.44	$17.44	$17.44
1 1/2"	$25.43	$34.87	$34.87	$34.87	$34.87	$34.87
2"	$40.69	$55.78	$55.78	$55.78	$55.78	$55.78
3"	$88.99	$122.02	$122.02	$122.02	$122.02	$122.02
4"	$160.18	$219.63	$219.63	$219.63	$219.63	$219.63
6"	$406.81	$557.79	$557.79	$557.79	$557.79	$557.79

The proposed wastewater rates will apply only to customers receiving wastewater service from the Agency, not from one of the cities.

Proposed Wastewater Rates	FY 2026 (Current)	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Wastewater						
Monthly Fixed Service Charges						
Residential	$164.28	$171.19	$176.50	$181.96	$187.59	$193.39
Commercial	$49.43	$39.06	$40.27	$41.52	$42.80	$44.13
Commodity Rates ($/ hcf)						
Low Strength	$19.47	$22.44	$23.14	$23.85	$24.59	$25.35
Medium Strength	$24.85	$28.68	$29.57	$30.48	$31.43	$32.40
High Strength	$43.67	$49.99	$51.54	$53.14	$54.78	$56.47
Monthly Debt Service Charges						
ID #1	$8.65	$6.01	$6.01	$6.01	$6.01	$6.01
Lake Camanche	$14.44	$9.79	$9.79	$9.79	$9.79	$9.79
General	$1.84	$1.67	$1.67	$1.67	$1.67	$1.67

Effective Date of Proposed Water Rates and Charges

If adopted, the proposed changes to the water rates and charges would become effective on July 1 of each year from 2026 through 2030 (Fiscal Years 2027 through 2031).

How Much Will My Water Bill Be?

The table below provides a summary of the change in the typical single-family water bills for treated water retail service in each service area, based on average water usage over the five-year period covered by the proposed rate plan. Monthly debt service charges will remain the same for each customer, while monthly service charges and water usage charges will change.

Typical Monthly Single Family Water Bills with Proposed Rates (1)				
	AWS	CAWP	Lake Camanche	La Mel Heights
Current Rates	**$ 124.21**	**$ 115.20**	**$ 101.76**	**$ 116.07**
Increase -->	$ 8.24	$ 7.49	$ 7.67	$ 6.23
July 2026	**$ 132.45**	**$ 122.69**	**$ 109.43**	**$ 122.30**
Increase -->	$ 8.69	$ 8.69	$ 8.69	$ 8.69
July 2027	**$ 141.14**	**$ 131.38**	**$ 118.12**	**$ 130.99**
Increase -->	$ 9.29	$ 9.29	$ 9.29	$ 9.29
July 2028	**$ 150.43**	**$ 140.67**	**$ 127.41**	**$ 140.28**
Increase -->	$ 9.98	$ 9.98	$ 9.98	$ 9.98
July 2029	**$ 160.41**	**$ 150.65**	**$ 137.39**	**$ 150.26**
Increase -->	$ 10.62	$ 10.62	$ 10.62	$ 10.62
July 2030	**$ 171.03**	**$ 161.27**	**$ 148.01**	**$ 160.88**
Notes:				
(1) Assumes a 5/8" meter and 9 CCF per month.				

Additional Information on Proposed Changes to Water and Wastewater Rates and Charges

Further information on the proposed water and wastewater rates and charges, the Amador Water 2025 Water Rate Study report and the Amador Water 2025 Wastewater Rate Study report are available for review during business hours at the Amador Water Agency, 12800 Ridge Road, Sutter Creek, or on the Agency's website at https://amadorwater.gov/customer-service/water-rates/. If you would like additional information on how the proposed changes will affect your water bill, please contact the Agency's Customer Service Office at 209-223-3018.

How to Protest the Proposed Rates and Service Charges

All owners and tenants of property receiving water or wastewater service, all water or wastewater service customers, and interested persons are invited to attend the public hearing and be heard

about the proposed changes to the Agency's water rates and service charges. An owner or tenant of property receiving water or wastewater service may protest the proposed water or wastewater rates and service charges by submitting a written protest by mail or in person to the Clerk of the Board, Amador Water Agency, 12800 Ridge Road, Sutter Creek, CA 95685. Written protests must be received (not postmarked) by the Agency by the close of the public hearing on December 9, 2025. Protests submitted by e-mail or other electronic means will not be accepted.

To be valid, a protest must be signed by the property owner or tenant. It must include the address of the parcel served and either the customer's account number or the Assessor's Parcel Number for the parcel served. The protest must state clearly and prominently whether it is protesting the proposed water rates and charges, wastewater rates and charges, or both. To be valid, a protest must relate to a parcel that receives the service for which the rates and charges are being protested. Only one written protest per identified parcel will be counted for purposes of determining whether there is a majority protest. Any written protest that includes all the required information will be accepted. The Clerk of the Board, or her designee, will tabulate the protests, and any member of the public may observe the tabulation. All protest forms are public records.

NOTICE OF SEPARATE OBJECTION PROCEDURE UNDER AB 2257

Separately from the protest procedure described above, any person or entity who wishes to challenge the Agency's proposed increases in water and wastewater rates and charges must first exhaust their administrative remedies (Government Code section 53759.1). Pursuant to Government Code section 53759.1, subdivision (c)(2), the cost-of-service study, which is the written basis for the proposed increases, is available at https://amadorwater.gov/customer-service/water-rates/. To exhaust administrative remedies, a property owner or ratepayer must timely submit a written objection which includes all of the following:

- NAME OF THE PROPERTY OWNER OR RATEPAYER
- PROPERTY OWNER'S OR RATEPAYER'S ADDRESS (MUST DIRECTLY PAY PROPOSED RATES)
- ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER OF PROPERTY
- A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROVISIONS OF LAW THAT SUPPORT THE PROPERTY OWNER'S OR RATEPAYER'S OBJECTION
- DESCRIBE HOW THE PROPOSED RATES VIOLATE THE CITED PROVISIONS OF LAW
- SIGNATURE OF THE PROPERTY OWNER OR RATEPAYER

A written objection may be mailed to or delivered by hand to the Agency at 12800 Ridge Road, Sutter Creek, CA 95685. **The written objection must be received by the Agency by 4:30 p.m. on November 25, 2025.** Failure to timely submit a valid written objection will prohibit you from bringing a lawsuit or other legal challenge alleging noncompliance with Article XIII D of the California Constitution for the proposed water *or* sewer rate increase.