

RESOLUTION NO. 24-161

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF VENTURA COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT
NO. 19 TO INCREASE WATER RATES AND MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGES FOR THE
CALENDAR YEAR 2025**

WHEREAS, the Ventura County Waterworks District No. 19 (District) provides water to the community of Somis. In 2023, 3% of the water was imported water from the State Water Project, delivered through the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Calleguas Municipal Water District, and the remaining 97% of the water was groundwater from local wells;

WHEREAS, District staff has reviewed the District's costs and revenues and determined that the District must increase its volumetric commodity (water) rates and fixed monthly service charges to provide fiscal stability and meet projected revenue requirements, including operations and maintenance expenses, capital expenditures, and reserve requirements;

WHEREAS, the cost of imported water will increase by 9.5% for the calendar year 2025;

WHEREAS, the cost of power is estimated to rise to 4%, the cost of labor, including salaries and benefits is estimated to increase by 5%, and the cost of materials is estimated to increase by up to 3% for fiscal year (FY) 2025-26;

WHEREAS, the estimated increase is needed for expenditures for planned capital projects, as well as repairs and maintenance on aging infrastructure;

WHEREAS, District staff estimates that, if the District does not increase its current rates and charges, the District's deficit will continue to grow, and the District's cash balance will go below the board-approved reserve target in the FY 2025-26;

WHEREAS, the amounts of the rates and charges do not exceed the estimated reasonable costs of providing the services for which the rates and charges are imposed, and these costs are allocated to payers in a manner that is proportional and bears a fair and reasonable relationship to the payers' burdens, or benefits received, from such services;

WHEREAS, District staff recommends rate increases as shown in Exhibit 4, attached hereto be adopted;

WHEREAS, the District uses the best available information to calculate proposed increases in the cost of imported water purchases from Calleguas Municipal Water District (CMWD) and has no control over the rates set by CMWD and must pass those costs through to customers upon increases in the wholesale charges;

WHEREAS, the District's Citizens' Advisory Committee has reviewed the 9.5% proposed fee schedule and unanimously concurred with the 5% rate and monthly service charge increases;

WHEREAS, the staff has reviewed the financial impact of a 5% to all volumetric commodity (water) rates and all fixed monthly service charges and has determined the rate increase will

allow the District to maintain cash reserves at or near target levels through fiscal year 2025-26, but should unforeseen maintenance occur the District's will be unable to finance needed infrastructure replacements with a negative fund balance;

WHEREAS, the proposed increases in the District's water rates and monthly service charges are subject to the majority protest provisions of California Constitution, Article XIII D, Section 6 (Proposition 218);

WHEREAS, the District, in accordance with Proposition 218, has given timely, proper notice of the proposed increases to volumetric commodity (water) rates and monthly service charges to all affected customers (e.g., parcel owners and directly billed tenants), including providing notice of the public hearing on the proposed increases before this Board at the Ventura County Board of Supervisor Hearing Room in the Hall of Administration, at 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California, at a time certain;

WHEREAS, per newly enacted section 53759 of the Government Code, effective January 1, 2022, legal challenges to new, increased, or extended fees or charges must be brought within 120 days of either the effective date of the fee or charge or the date of the ordinance, resolution or motion adopting or approving the fee or charge, whichever is later;

WHEREAS, the Board has now held a public hearing to consider all oral and written comments, protests, and objections concerning these proposed increases; and

WHEREAS, the Board, having reviewed all written protests submitted to it before the conclusion of the public hearing, has determined that written protests were not received from a majority of affected customers such as parcel owners and directly billed tenants;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby (i) adopts the proposed rate schedule, as shown in Exhibit 4, attached hereto, effective beginning on the next regularly scheduled meter reading and billing cycle on or after January 1, 2025, and (ii) directs that these rates be published on the District's website.

Upon motion of Board Member Gorell, seconded by Board Member LaVere, and duly carried, the Board hereby approves and adopts this resolution on this 10th day of December 2024.

Kelly Borg
Chair, Board of Ventura County Waterworks
District No. 19

ATTEST:

SEVET JOHNSON

Clerk of the Board of Ventura County Waterworks District No. 19
County of Ventura, State of California.

By: Jon Key

Deputy Clerk of the Board



EXHIBIT 4

VENTURA COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 19 (SOMIS) PROPOSED WATER RATES AND MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGES EFFECTIVE ON THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED METER READING AND BILLING CYCLE ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2025

Water Commodity Rates			
Residential		Current Rates	Proposed Rates
28-day Cycle			
Tier 1	0 – 9.33 HCF*	\$2.59	\$2.72
Tier 2	9.34 – 28.93 HCF	\$3.15	\$3.31
Tier 3	> 28.94 HCF	\$4.16	\$4.37
35-day Cycle			
Tier 1	0 – 11.67 HCF	\$2.59	\$2.72
Tier 2	11.68 – 36.17 HCF	\$3.15	\$3.31
Tier 3	> 36.18 HCF	\$4.16	\$4.37
Other Classes		Current Rates	Proposed Rates
Agricultural		\$3.33 (\$1,450.55/AF)*	\$3.50 (\$1,524.60/AF)
Commercial		\$3.56	\$3.74
Industrial		\$5.89	\$6.19
Institutional		\$3.85	\$4.04
Multi-Family Residential		\$3.58	\$3.76
Temporary Construction		\$6.14	\$6.45
Lift Charges		\$0.26	\$0.27
<i>* HCF = Hundred Cubic Feet (748 Gallons); *AF = Acre Feet (435.60 HCF)</i>			
Monthly Service Charges – Meters			
Meter Size		Current Rates	Proposed Rates
3/4-inch		\$22.23	\$23.34
1-inch		\$34.02	\$35.72
1 1/2-inch		\$63.48	\$66.65
2-inch		\$98.82	\$103.77
3-inch		\$210.76	\$221.30
4-inch		\$375.72	\$394.51
6-inch		\$770.45	\$808.97
Monthly Service Charges - Fire Line			
Meter Size		Current Rates	Proposed Rates
2-inch		\$10.33	\$10.85

3-inch	\$21.32	\$22.38
4-inch	\$40.27	\$42.28
6-inch	\$108.30	\$113.71
8-inch	\$225.61	\$236.89
<i>NOTE: Water used through private fire services will be charged at the temporary construction water rate</i>		