



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ENCLOSED REGARDING YOUR WATER RATES

Hay copias en español disponibles en la Oficina del Distrito y en www.meinersoakswater.com.

PROPOSITION 218 NOTICE

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS & AUTHORIZED
REPRESENTATIVES OF PUBLIC HEARING ON
PROPOSED WATER RATE ADJUSTMENTS

Date: June 16, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Meiners Oaks School
400 S. Lomita Ave
Ojai, CA 93023

Join by computer:

<https://meet.goto.com/964335605>

Dial-in (US): +1 (646) 749-3122

Access Code: 964-335-605

WHY ARE YOU RECEIVING THIS NOTICE?

This notice is being mailed to you by the Meiners Oaks Water District (“District”) pursuant to the California Constitution Article XIII D (also known as “Proposition 218”). Under the terms of Proposition 218, the District is required to notify property owners of proposed changes to property-related fees, such as water service fees. This letter serves as notice that the District will hold a public hearing on June 16, 2026, to consider proposed changes to its current water rates, which will take effect on July 1, 2026. Any interested person shall be permitted to present written and/or oral testimony. The District may impose reasonable time limits on both the length of the entire public hearing and the length of each interested person’s oral testimony.

Background of Rate Setting

The District retained an independent rate consultant, Robert D. Niehaus, Inc. (RDN), to prepare a cost-of-service analysis and rate study to determine whether current water rates are sufficient to cover the District's costs of providing water service. The rate study models the costs of operating and maintaining the utility system for the next five years.

Based on the results of the study, rate adjustments for water service are necessary to meet revenue requirements, fund capital improvements, and maintain adequate reserve funds to ensure fiscal security for the District. The planned revenue adjustments outlined in this notice provide a phased approach to meeting the water system funding needs. The phased approach is designed to minimize the impact on rate payers. Water rate calculations for future years are estimates based on economic conditions that may change. Each year, before implementing a planned rate increase, the District reviews the need for rate adjustments and implements those necessary to recover costs. The District does not make a profit on selling water.

Why are the Rate Adjustments Needed?

The District is committed to providing efficient and effective water service and maintaining operational and fiscal security for its utility system, while keeping costs as low as possible for its customers. Our rates are based on the actual cost of providing water service to our customers and fairly and equitably distributing these costs to customers. Rates must recover the cost of purchasing and producing water, maintaining, and improving the system through capital improvements.

Over the next several years, the District is implementing several important projects, including the replacement of a major water tank. To fund this project without overly impacting ratepayers, the District is planning to issue debt. The proposed rates will allow the District to maintain debt payments as well as debt coverage requirements. These projects are critical to ensuring we can continue to deliver safe, clean, reliable water that meets and exceeds State drinking standards.

Current and Proposed Rates

MONTHLY FIXED CHARGE: A monthly fixed charge is proposed for all customers by meter size based on the relative cost to provide service to each meter. To develop fixed charges, customer service costs are applied equally to each customer because these costs do not increase based on meter size, and other fixed costs are applied based on the meter equivalency of the potential flow in gallons per minute. This changes the current fixed charge policy which includes a fixed monthly water availability charge (MWAC) which is paid by all customers, a monthly meter capacity charge which is paid for by all meters larger than 1", and a monthly Casitas Standby Fee, which is paid for by all meters. The total current fixed charge for a 5/8" meter is \$38.75, under the proposed rates, this will increase to \$43.33 in FY 2027.

VARIABLE CHARGES: Variable rates were designed by taking all costs not recovered by the fixed charge and dividing them by projected water use. The current variable charges are \$3.95 per hundred cubic feet (hcf) for all monthly use, except when the District is using water from the Casitas Municipal Water District, in which case an additional surcharge of \$1.00 is added to each hcf of water. The proposed rates are set to be \$4.70 per hcf for all water use, regardless of the District's current water source. The current and proposed rates are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 - Current and Proposed 5-Year Fixed Change Schedule

Fixed Charge	Current	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
MWAC	\$36.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Monthly Meter Capacity Charge	Monthly Fixed Charge					
Meter Size	Current	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
5/8"	\$0.00	\$43.33	\$47.66	\$52.43	\$57.67	\$60.55
3/4"	\$0.00	\$64.39	\$70.83	\$77.91	\$85.70	\$89.99
1"	\$17.60	\$106.48	\$117.13	\$128.84	\$141.72	\$148.81
1 1/2"	\$39.70	\$211.72	\$232.89	\$256.18	\$281.80	\$295.89
2"	\$114.70	\$338.00	\$371.80	\$408.98	\$449.88	\$472.37
3"	\$282.20	\$737.87	\$811.66	\$892.83	\$982.11	\$1,031.22
4"	\$855.50	\$1,327.19	\$1,459.91	\$1,605.90	\$1,766.49	\$1,854.81
6"	\$1,737.50	\$2,737.32	\$3,011.05	\$3,312.16	\$3,643.38	\$3,825.55
Variable Charge	Current	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
1 hcf	\$3.95	\$4.70	\$5.17	\$5.69	\$6.26	\$6.57
Casitas Standby Fee	Current	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Per Meter	\$2.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Casitas Surcharge	Current	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
1 hcf	\$1.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

How to Protest these Rate Changes

All members of the public are invited to attend the public hearing. Additionally, under California State Law, all property owners in the Meiners Oaks Water District may submit a written protest to the proposed rate changes. Only one protest per parcel is permitted. No specific form is required; however, each protest must be submitted by the owner of the property, must be in writing, and must include the owner's legibly printed name, signature, and the Assessor's Parcel Number. If you do not know your Assessor's Parcel Number, your protest letter should include the street address of the property served by the District or information sufficient for the District to identify the property.

The Board of Directors will hear and consider all written and oral protests to the proposed rate adjustments at the Public Hearing. Oral comments at the Public Hearing will not qualify as formal protests under Proposition 218 unless accompanied by a written protest. Upon the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the Board of Directors will consider adopting the proposed rates. If written protests against the proposed rates do not represent a majority of the parcels affected by the proposed rates, the Board of Directors will be legally authorized to adopt the proposed rates. If approved, the rate changes will take effect with billing statements for service issued on or after July 1, 2026.

Your written protest must be fully completed, signed, and submitted to 202 West El Roblar Drive, Ojai, CA 93023, either by mail or in person, before the close of the Public Protest Hearing on June 16, 2026, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Additional information may be obtained by e-mail at agenda@meinersoakswater.com or by calling (805) 646-2114. Pursuant to Government Code Section 53759, a judicial action to challenge any new, increased, or extended fee or charge must be brought within 120 days of the final approval of the fee or charge.

PROTEST FORM

To protest the proposed Water Rate Increase, you may complete this Protest Form and mail or hand-deliver it to:

Meiners Oaks Water District
202 West El Roblar Drive
Ojai, CA 93023

To be counted, the District must receive a mailed written protest no later than 6:00 PM on June 16, 2026. Protests may be hand-delivered up until the end of the Public Hearing. Only one protest is allowed per property.

Parcel APN: _____

Parcel Address: _____

- I protest the proposed Water rate increase to fund operation, maintenance, and capital replacement costs related to providing water service to properties within the Meiners Oaks Water District service area.

- I hereby declare under penalty of perjury that I am the owner of the above-listed property or the authorized representative of the owner of the above-listed property.

Please sign here: _____

Date: _____

Please print the property owner name(s) here:

Comments, if any:

