



Board of Directors

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Providing Outstanding Service Since 1963

November 28, 2022

Board of Directors
 Triunfo Water & Sanitation District
 Ventura County, California

PUBLIC HEARING: DISTRICT ORDINANCE NO. TWSD-350 – PRESCRIBING FEES AND CHARGES FOR POTABLE WATER

Summary

At the October 24, 2022, Triunfo Water & Sanitation District (District) Board Meeting, in compliance with the provisions set forth in Government Code Section 25131, your Board conducted the first reading of Ordinance No. TWSD-350 (Adopted 11/28/22), prescribing fees and charges for potable water service. The proposed changes include a pass-through water rate increase and clarification of associated fees and penalties for illegal consumption. Staff recommends your Board conduct a public hearing and consider adoption of the revised fees and penalties policy for illegal use and approval the pass-through water rate increase.

Discussion

Effective January 1, 2023, the Calleguas Municipal Water District (Calleguas) wholesale supply rate will increase from \$1,561 per acre-foot to \$1,632 per acre-foot, a \$71 per acre-foot increase equivalent to \$0.17 per hundred cubic feet (HCF).

Staff recommends adoption of a new rate schedule in the ordinance that, effective with the District’s January 2023 billing period, will increase the District’s potable water quantity rates across all tiers by seventeen cents per hundred cubic feet (\$0.17/HCF). This increase results solely from the District’s passing through, in accordance with applicable law, the Calleguas wholesale rate increase effective January 1, 2023.

The increases in the District’s potable water quantity rates is a direct result from the pass-through of the Calleguas wholesale water rate increase of \$0.17/HCF as specified in Table I:

Table I

Tier	Monthly Use	Rate FY 2022 (per HCF)	Current Rate FY 2023 (per HCF)	Rate Effective 1/1/23 (per HCF)	Rate FY 2024 (per HCF)	Rate FY 2025 (per HCF)
1	0-7 HCF	\$7.46	\$7.90	8.07	\$8.38	\$8.71
2	>7-28 HCF	\$8.42	\$8.92	9.09	\$9.44	\$9.81
3	>28 HCF	\$10.25	\$10.86	11.03	\$11.46	\$11.91

Note: HCF = 100 cubic feet of water = 748 gallons

TWSD-350 was adopted in compliance with Proposition 218 notice and protest procedures. In accordance with those procedures (and the provisions set forth in Government Code Section 53756), the District reserved the right to automatically “pass through” increases in wholesale water costs by providing affected parcel owners with mailed notice of those increases not less than 30 days from the effective date of the increase. The aforementioned mailed notice satisfies the requirements of Proposition 218 with respect to the District’s adoption of the recommended pass-through rate increase.

Please note that any of the quantity rates specified in Table I are, in accordance with applicable law, subject to adjustment by the District should Calleguas adopt further increases in its potable water wholesale rates.

As the result of recent water theft events, via water meter tampering, the revised Ordinance TWSD-350 includes additional fees and penalties associated with water meter tampering and illegal water consumption not previously enumerated in the Ordinance.

Please contact me at (805) 658-4621 or marknorris@triunfowsd.com if you have any questions.

Fiscal Impact

The potable water pass-through increase is revenue and cost neutral. These rate increases were anticipated and are reflected in the FY2022-2023 Adopted Budget. Any fines and penalties collected from illegal usage become part of the District’s reserves.

Recommendation

It is recommended the Board:

- A. Conduct a public hearing regarding proposed revisions to Ordinance No. TWSD-350, Establishing Policies and Procedures for Potable Water Service Owned and Operated by Triunfo Water & Sanitation District:
 1. Call to order and open the public hearing.
 2. Receive staff report and recommendations.
 3. Report of written communications.
 4. Public comment.
 5. Close public hearing.
 6. Discussion by Board of Directors
- B. Adopt Ordinance No. TWSD-350 which shall take effect January 1, 2023, to include a pass-through increase in water rates and detailing the associated fees and penalties for illegal water use; and
- C. Conduct the second reading, by title only, of Ordinance No. TWSD-350 (Adopted 11/28/22), Establishing Policies and Procedures for Potable Water Service Owned and Operated by Triunfo Water & Sanitation District; and

- D. Direct staff to update the District's website to reflect the revised water rates and associated fees and penalties.

“TRIUNFO WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT ORDINANCE NO. TWSD-350 (Adopted 11/28/22) PRESCRIBING FEES AND CHARGES FOR POTABLE WATER PROVIDED BY TRIUNFO WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT”

REVIEWED AND APPROVED



Mark Norris - General Manager

Attachment: TWSD-350 PW Fees Adopt 11-28-22

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TRIUNFO WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT

**ORDINANCE NO. TWSD-350 (Adopted 11/28/22)
PRESCRIBING FEES AND CHARGES FOR POTABLE WATER
PROVIDED BY TRIUNFO WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the Triunfo Water & Sanitation District (“District”) is duly organized and established under the laws of the State of California and, as such, is empowered to impose fees and charges relative to the District’s provision of services to its service area; and

WHEREAS, the District provides retail potable water service to its customers and charges these customers appropriate service fees and charges designed to cover operating and maintenance expenses associated with the provision of the services; and

WHEREAS, the District has estimated the costs of providing retail potable water service to its customers based on financial information for the current year and the entire operating history of the enterprise; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance No. TWSD-350 (“Ordinance”) prescribes fees and charges pertaining to the provision of retail potable water service to the District’s customers; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act (Government Code Section 53750 through 53756) the District has adopted a schedule of potable water rates that authorizes automatic adjustments that pass-through increase in the wholesale cost of potable water, as calculated per hundred cubic feet of water (HCF); and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Government Code Section 53756(d), the District will provide written notice to all affected property owners prior to imposing the automatic adjustments set forth in this Ordinance that pass-through increases in wholesale cost of potable water charged by Calleguas, as calculated per hundred cubic feet of water (HCF). Said written notice shall be not less than thirty (30) days before the effective date of said adjustments; and,

WHEREAS, the District has complied with all applicable requirements set forth in Article XIII D of the California Constitution (enacted by Proposition 218, November 5, 1996 Statewide election); and

WHEREAS, a notice was published in the Ventura County Star, a newspaper of general circulation published and circulated in the District, providing a summary of this Ordinance and noticing a public hearing to consider adoption of this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, all persons present at said hearing and interested in the matter were heard and given the opportunity to be heard on the enactment of the proposed fees and charges prescribed in this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, after considering the financial information, hearing a staff presentation, considering the testimony received at the public hearing and discussion of the issues, the Board of Directors concludes that the proposed fees and charges prescribed in this Ordinance are necessary for the District’s provision of services and do not exceed the cost of those services; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of this Ordinance is statutorily exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to the provisions of Public Resources Code Section

21080(b)(8) and California Code of regulations Section 15273(a).

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board hereby ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This Ordinance shall be known as the TWSD Potable Water Fee and Charge Ordinance.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

The following words as used in this Ordinance shall have the meanings set forth below unless otherwise apparent in the context in which they are used:

- a. "Board of Directors" or "Board" means the TWSD Board of Directors.
- b. "Customer" means any person, association, corporation, governmental agency, firm, or company of record receiving water service from the District.
- c. "District" or "TWSD" means the Triunfo Water & Sanitation District.
- d. "Hundred Cubic Feet" or HCF" or "Unit of Water" means 100 cubic feet or 748 gallons of water.

SECTION 3. FEES AND CHARGES

The following fees and charges are hereby prescribed:

A. Monthly Service Charge

Meter Size	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
3/4"	\$33.43	\$35.44	\$36.86	\$38.34
1"	\$52.75	\$55.92	\$58.16	\$60.49
1-1/2"	\$100.41	\$106.44	\$110.70	\$115.13
2"	\$156.91	\$166.33	\$172.99	\$179.91
3"	\$335.79	\$355.94	\$370.18	\$384.99
4"	\$599.42	\$635.39	\$660.81	\$687.25
6"	\$1,324.41	\$1,403.88	\$1,460.04	\$1,518.45

B. Quantity Rate for Potable Water

Tier	Monthly Use	Rate FY 2022 (per HCF)	Current Rate FY 2023 (per HCF)	Rate Effective 1/1/23 (per HCF)	Rate FY 2024 (per HCF)	Rate FY 2025 (per HCF)
1	0-7 HCF	\$7.46	\$7.90	\$8.07	\$8.38	\$8.71
2	>7-28 HCF	\$8.42	\$8.92	\$9.09	\$9.44	\$9.81
3	>28 HCF	\$10.25	\$10.86	\$11.03	\$11.46	\$11.91

Any of the quantity rates specified above are, in accordance with applicable law, subject to adjustment by the District should Calleguas adopt further increases or decreases in its potable water wholesale rate.

C. Automatic Fire Sprinkler Monthly Service Charge

Meter Size	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY2025
3/4"	\$33.43	\$35.44	\$36.86	\$38.34

Water used through an automatic fire sprinkler system for purposes other than for extinguishing fires or a related purpose, shall be charged the Tier 3 metered water rate for all water used through such service connection.

D. Service Connection Fee

Meter Size	FY2023
3/4"	5,400
1"	9,000
1-1/2"	17,950
2"	28,675
3"	62,850
4"	113,075
6"	251,300

Commencing on July 1, 1990 and continuing thereafter on each July 1, the water connection fee set forth above shall be adjusted by an increment based on the March to March average percentage change in the Construction Cost Index for the Los Angeles area published in the McGraw-Hill construction weekly magazine titled "ENR," and rounded to the nearest twenty-five dollars (\$25). However, the Board may at its sole option determine, by resolution adopted prior thereto, that such adjustment shall not be effective for the next succeeding years, or may determine other amounts as appropriate based upon the capital expenditure needs of the District.

E. Processing, Planning and Inspection Fees

Item	Fee
Application Fee	1. Projects that require only administrative review: \$0 2. All other Projects: \$150
Project Completion Deposit	Projects that require a final audit or inspection: \$1,000
Water Line Plan Check Fee	1. Plan check fee: \$100/sheet 2. Plans resubmitted after change orders: \$100/sheet 3. Subdivision Final Map or Parcel Map Sewer Improvement Plan: \$100/sheet
Water Line Construction Inspection Fee	1. Inspection Fee: \$125/hour (\$350 minimum) 2. Overtime Inspection Fee: \$200/hour
Fire flow Testing Fee	Project that require a fire flow test: \$125/hour (\$350 min)

F. Miscellaneous Fees

Item	Fee
Account Set Up Fee	\$15.00
Construction Connection (Per Month)	\$8.50
New Customer Deposit –3/4” Meter	\$75.00
New Customer Deposit - 1” Meter	\$80.00
New Customer Deposit – 1 ½” Meter	\$100.00
New Customer Deposit - 2” Meter	\$150.00
New Customer Deposit over 2” Meter	\$200.00
Shut off Notice/Shut off/Turn on/etc. - Regular Business Hours	\$30.00 each
Shut off Notice/Shut off/Turn on/etc. - After Hours/Weekends	\$325.00 each
Fire Service (Per Inch of Meter Diameter)	\$6.75
Security Deposit – Metered Hydrant Service	\$1,200.00
Security Deposit – Reinstatement after shut off for customers with history of delinquent payment and will escalate based on the amount of the billing (returned after one year if no late fees are applied during the entire period)	\$150.00
Unauthorized Turn on by customer	\$ 75.00
Unauthorized Fire Hydrant Use Penalty (per incident) (Assessment in addition to the cost for repairs plus cost for water lost)	\$ 250.00
Illegal Water Consumption Penalty/Meter Tampering (Note: This fine is not eligible for a payment plan)	\$2,500 (1 st) \$10,000 (2 nd or more)

In addition, the District shall collect charges for work performed or for damages incurred (i.e., damaged meter box, meter box replacement covers, damaged fire hydrants, etc.). The charges shall be based on the costs incurred including an amount for overhead as set by the District.

G. Water Conservation Fines and Penalties

1) Misdemeanor

Any violation of District ordinances may be prosecuted as a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than thirty (30) days, or by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both.

2) Fines

Fines for failure to comply with the water conservation measures in the ordinance shall be as follows:

Violation	Permanent (Level 1) & Stage 1 (Level 2) Fines	Stage 2 (Level 3) and Stage 3 (Levels 4-6) Fines
First Violation	Written Warning	Fine not greater than \$100
Second Violation within a 12 Month Period	Fine not greater than \$100	Fine not greater than \$200

Third Violation within a 12 Month Period	Fine not greater than \$150	Fine not greater than \$250
Fourth Violation within a 12 Month Period	Fine not greater than \$200	Fine not greater than \$350
Fifth and Subsequent Violations within a 12 Month Period	Fine not greater than \$250	Fine not greater than \$500

A fifth and subsequent violation is punishable not only with a fine, but also the following:

1. Water Flow Restrictor (Applies to Permanent (Level 1) and Stages 1-3 (Levels 2-6): The District may install a water flow restrictor device of approximately one gallon per minute capacity for services up to one and one-half inch size and competitively sized restrictors for larger services after written notice of intent from the General Manager to install a restrictor for a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours.
2. Termination of Service (Applies to Stage 2 (Level 3) - Stage 3 (Levels 4-6): The District may disconnect and/or terminate a customer's water service.

3) Penalties for Excessive Consumption

Excessive water use penalties will be charged in addition to the regular fee structure based on total consumption. If an Account uses more water during any Monthly Billing Cycle than has been allocated to that Account, such excess use shall constitute a violation of this Ordinance, and the penalty rates for excessive consumption is as follows:

Excess Water Charge 1	Excess Water Charge 2	Excess Water Charge 3
0 - <7 HCF	7 - <12 HCF	12+ HCF
Penalty based on 1X Tier 1 water rate	Penalty based on 2X Tier 2 water rate	Penalty based on 3X Tier 3 water rate

Hundred Cubic Feet (HCF) = 100 cubic feet of water = 748 gallons

In addition to the penalty rates, any Account exceeding their allocation four times in any twelve month period may result in the District installing a water flow restrictor device. An Account can request removal of the flow restrictor device following three months of water allocation compliance. Removal requests must be made in writing and addressed to the General Manager.

4) Cost of Flow Restrictor and Disconnecting Service

A person or entity that violates this ordinance is responsible for payment of the District charges for installing and/or removing any flow restricting device and for disconnecting and/or reconnecting service per the District's schedule of charges, then in effect as a charge for installing and/or removing any flow restricting device shall be paid to the District before the device is removed. Nonpayment shall be subject to the same schedules as nonpayment of basic water rates.

5) Separate Offenses

The District provides a 10-day period from the date on the notice of violation in which a violation may be appealed. No further notice of violation for the same offense will be issued during this time. If the appeal is received within this 10-day period, no further action will be taken pending

notification of the District's final determination. If the appeal is not received within this 10-day period then the violation stands.

6) Appeals to the Board

An applicant can appeal a decision of the General Manager on a violation to the TWSD Board within 10 days of the decision upon written request to the Clerk of the Board for a hearing. The request shall state the grounds for the appeal. At a public meeting, the TWSD Board shall act as the approval authority and review the appeal following the regular appeal procedure. The decision of the TWSD Board is final.

7) Rate Increase Structure During Shortage

Recognizing that a time of severe water shortage will have fiscal and social impacts to the Oak Park Community, the District has established measures to alleviate these impacts to the District's potable water customers.

To address the potential fiscal impact locally, the District has adopted a mechanism designed to increase rates as the supply drops and water costs to the District from its supplier begin to rise. This has the dual effect of 1) mitigating the fiscal impact to the District of a water shortage and 2) serving as an incentive to customers to work at conservation efforts.

SECTION 4. FINDINGS

The TWSD Board of Directors finds the foregoing fees and charges are for the purpose of: (1) meeting operating expenses, including but not limited to the District's operations, maintenance and management contract; (2) purchasing or leasing supplies, equipment and materials; (3) meeting financial reserve needs and requirements; (4) obtaining funds for constructing and maintaining water facilities necessary to maintain service within existing service areas; (5) improvements and repairs; and (6) debt service and refunds.

The TWSD Board of Directors further finds that the foregoing fees and charges: (1) do not exceed the funds required to provide the service; (2) are not used for any purpose other than that for which they are imposed; (3) as imposed upon any parcel or person as an incident of property ownership, do not exceed the proportional cost of the service attributable to the parcel; and, (4) are imposed only for service that is actually used by, or immediately available to, the owner of the property in question.

SECTION 5. FEE REVIEW PERIOD

On or about January 1 of each year, the General Manager is hereby empowered and shall review the estimated cost of providing the services described and the impact of any pending or anticipated changes in the service level. The General Manager shall report these findings to the Board of Directors at a duly noticed public hearing and recommend any adjustment to the fees and charges or other action that may be required.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY

This Ordinance, except for those portions that are found to be invalid, would remain in full force and effect and continue to be valid. The Board of Directors hereby declares it would have passed this Ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases or the application

thereof to any person or circumstance be held invalid.

SECTION 7. REPEAL OF PRIOR INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES

Any prior ordinances or portions of ordinances previously adopted by the District Board of Directors that are in conflict with this Ordinance, are repealed as of the Effective Date of this Ordinance. This includes TWSD-350 (Adopted 6/27/22).

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall become effective January 1, 2023.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 28th day of November 2022 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

TRIUNFO WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT

Leon Shapiro, Chair

ATTESTED:

Fidela Garcia, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

John Mathews, General Counsel

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