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November 28, 2022

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

**PUBLIC HEARING: DISTRICT ORDINANCE NO. TWSD-450 PRESCRIBING FEES AND CHARGES FOR RECYCLED 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-450 (Adopted 11/28/22), prescribing fees and charges for monthly recycled water (RW) service customers, as well as certain planning and inspection fees. The proposed revisions include a pass-through recycled water rate increase and language to properly identify and codify recycled water fees and penalties, including illegal recycled water consumption. Staff recommends your Board conduct a public hearing and consider adoption of the revised changes in recycled water charges and associated fees/penalties and approval of the pass-through water rate increase.

**Discussion**

Effective January 1, 2023, the Calleguas Municipal Water District (Calleguas) will increase the wholesale potable supply rate charge to the District by 4.5% which will impact the District's two wholesale customers, namely, California Water Service and Hidden Valley Municipal Water District. Both wholesale RW customers are served under contract which stipulates that RW water rates be based on 80% of Calleguas' potable supply rate. Additionally, in order to ensure adequate funding for future recycled water capital projects and maintain the historical pricing relationship between District retail potable water rates and retail recycled water rates, staff is recommending a 4.5% retail recycled water rate increase, or twenty-six cents per HCF (\$0.26/HCF). The increase in the District's recycled water retail rate resulting from the Calleguas pass-through is specified in Table I below:

**Table I: Increase in Recycled Water Retail Rates**

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)
5.70	\$5.81	\$6.07	\$6.18	\$6.30

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

The proposed rate of \$6.07/HCF for recycled water is within the prescribed limits of Ordinance No. TSD-400 (Adopted 11/26/18) which states:

“It is the policy of the Board to set the retail rate for recycled water at no greater than 90% of the Oak Park Water Service Tier 1 potable water rate.”

The proposed \$6.07/HCF recycled water rate is 75.2% of the proposed TWSD’s Tier I potable water rate (\$8.07/HCF) effective with the January 2023 billing period. Actual savings to recycled water customers is much more significant when considering that based on water usage, these customers would be in the Tier 3 rate if they chose to use potable water. Under this assumption the difference would be 55%. If adopted on November 28, 2022, notification will be included within the recycled water customer’s monthly bill to comply with the notification requirements under applicable law.

Although not a requirement, TWSD-450 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.

In addition, Ordinance TWSD-450 updates and clarifies the miscellaneous fees and penalties associated with water meter operations (turn on/off, shutoff fees, account setup, etc.), meter tampering, and illegal water consumption not currently in the Ordinance.

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

### **Fiscal Impact**

The recycled 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 TWSD Ordinance No. TWSD-450 for prescribing fees and charges for recycled water:
  - 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-450 which shall take effect January 1, 2023, to include a pass-through increase in recycled water rates and codifying fees and penalties for illegal water use; and
- C. Conduct the second reading, by title only, of Ordinance No. TWSD-450 (Adopted 11/28/22), Prescribing Fees and Charges for Recycled Water Provided by Triunfo Water & Sanitation District; and
- D. Direct staff to update the District's website to reflect the revised recycled water rates and associated fees and penalties.

**"TRIUNFO WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT ORDINANCE NO. TWSD-450 (Adopted 11/28/22) PRESCRIBING FEES AND CHARGES FOR RECYCLED WATER PROVIDED BY TRIUNFO WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT"**

REVIEWED AND APPROVED   
Mark Norris - General Manager

Attachment: TWSD-450 RW Fees Adopt 11-28-22

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**TRIUNFO WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT**

**ORDINANCE NO. TWSD-450 (Adopted 11/28/22)  
PRESCRIBING FEES AND CHARGES FOR RECYCLED 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 recycled water services to its customers within the District's service area and charges these customers appropriate service fees designed to cover operating and maintenance expenses associated with the provision of the cost of services; and

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

**WHEREAS**, this Ordinance prescribes fees and charges pertaining to the provision of retail recycled water service to the District's customers; and

**WHEREAS**, the District adopted TSD Ordinance No. TSD-400 setting the retail rate for recycled water at not greater than 90% of the District's potable water Tier 1 potable water rate; and

**WHEREAS**, the District is under contract with California Water Service and Hidden Valley Municipal Water District to set the wholesale rate charged to them at 80% of the then current Calleguas Municipal Water District's (Calleguas) Tier 1 wholesale supply rate for potable water (\$1305.60 per acre-foot); 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 6, 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**, 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 Recycled 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 recycled 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
2"	\$157.46	\$160.61	\$163.83	\$167.11
3"	\$295.22	\$301.13	\$307.16	\$313.31
4"	\$492.03	\$501.88	\$511.92	\$522.16
6"	\$983.98	\$1,003.66	\$1,023.74	\$1,044.22
8"	\$1,721.09	\$1,755.51	\$1,790.62	\$1,826.43
10"	\$2,580.93	\$2,632.55	\$2,685.20	\$2,738.91

**B. Quantity Rate for Recycled Water**

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)
5.70	\$5.81	\$6.07	\$6.18	\$6.30

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. 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

**D. Miscellaneous Fees**

Item	Fee
Account Set Up Fee	\$15.00
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
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
Illegal Water Consumption Penalty/Meter Tampering (Note: This fine is not eligible for a payment plan)	\$2,500 (1 <sup>st</sup> ) \$10,000 (2 <sup>nd</sup> 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, etc.). The charges shall be based on the costs incurred including an amount for overhead as set by the District

**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 recycled 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-450 (Adopted 6/28/21; Updated 11/22/21).

**SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Ordinance shall become effective January 1, 2023.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 28<sup>th</sup> 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:**

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John Mathews, General Counsel

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