



# EL MONTE



## **NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS & CUSTOMERS**

**This Notice is provided by the City of El Monte in accordance with Article XIII D, Section 6 of the California Constitution (Proposition 218), which requires the City to notify property owners of record with City water connections of proposed water rate adjustments and their right to protest.**

The El Monte City Council will hold a Public Hearing on:

**Wednesday, December 10, 2025, 6 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard**  
El Monte City Hall - East City Council Chambers  
11333 Valley Boulevard, El Monte, CA 91731

To consider adopting proposed rate adjustments to the City's current water service rates and charges. All interested persons are invited to attend the Public Hearing. The City Council will hear and consider all oral testimony and written materials submitted regarding proposed adjustments to water rates and charges at the Public Hearing. In the absence of a majority protest, the City Council has the authority to adjust the proposed water rates and charges in response to oral testimony and written materials submitted for consideration, provided adjustments do not increase rates beyond those proposed in this Notice. If adopted by the City Council, the proposed rate adjustments will become effective on January 1, 2026, with annual rate adjustments on January 1 of each year from 2026 through 2030.

# Information Sessions

The City is hosting community information sessions to address questions about proposed rates, how they were determined, what's driving the need to increase rates, and how your bills may be impacted. The same content will be covered in each session.

**El Monte Community Center**  
**3130 Tyler Ave.**  
**El Monte, 91731**

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**Mon, Nov. 17th**  
**9 am - 11 am**

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**Tues, Nov. 18th**  
**5 pm - 7 pm**

## **Reasons for Proposed Changes to Water Rates and Charges**

The City of El Monte is committed to providing safe and reliable water services, now and in the future. Effective financial management of our water system is essential for long-term resilience and maintaining the high quality of life we have come to expect. However, aging infrastructure, rising costs for water supplies, evolving regulations, and inflation pose financial and operational challenges.

The majority of funds required to operate and invest in our water supplies and system come directly from the rates customers pay for service. Revenues from current rates are no longer adequate to support operations and fund much-needed system improvements and maintenance. Per state law, revenues generated from rate increases must only be used to fund the costs to provide the service including operations and maintenance, capital improvements, the cost of debt to finance capital equipment, and maintaining cash and emergency reserves.

The City's Water Department provides potable water service to approximately 3,500 metered service connections. Our water supply comes from groundwater that is extracted from the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin through five production wells, disinfected, and delivered to customers via 40 miles of water distribution lines.

With costs continually outpacing revenues in recent years, the City enlisted utility finance experts to examine our costs to operate the water system. The rate study looked at operating and capital costs and revenue needed to ensure the financial stability of water service in the years to come, including funding reserves to manage financial risks. Reserves help address challenges such as drought conditions, emergency repairs, natural disasters, and aging infrastructure that is at or near the end of its useful life, all while continuing to provide high-quality service.

The rate study revealed a revenue shortfall and the need for continued annual rate increases. This Notice summarizes the rate study findings and proposed adjustments to water service rates and charges over the next five years that the El Monte City Council will consider.

## **How were Proposed Rates and Charges Determined?**

The proposed rates will ensure the City collects sufficient revenue to cover operating and capital expenses to maintain high-quality, reliable water service that customers rely on. The proposed rates were determined based on the projected revenue needed to fund:

- Operations and Maintenance, such as supplies, chemicals, electricity, etc.
- Capital Improvements, such as large projects to repair/replace pipes, wells, pump stations and equipment, and develop alternative water sources to minimize future water shortage impacts on our customers.
- Debt Service to pay back loans.
- Reserves to meet minimum debt service requirements and fund emergency or unplanned expenses.

## PROPOSED WATER RATES

The City's water rate structure includes a bi-monthly fixed charge by meter size and a bi-monthly commodity (consumption) rate based on the amount of water used every two months. Private fire charges are only applicable to those commercial accounts with private fire protection (excludes most single-family homes).

**Table 1. Proposed Five-Year Schedule of Water Fixed Charges**

Table 1 shows current and proposed water fixed charges that all customers pay based on meter size and covers the production of water, maintenance of facilities (reservoir, production wells, pipelines), electrical costs for pumping water, and other fixed operating costs.

Customers are billed on a bi-monthly basis (every two months), but we understand that many households budget monthly. In the table below, the **first figure (shown in black)** represents the monthly amount, while the **second figure (shown in blue)** shows the same amount on a bi-monthly basis.

Fixed Charge by Meter Size	Current	1/1/2026	1/1/2027	1/1/2028	1/1/2029	1/1/2030
5/8"	\$40.12 \$80.24	\$43.23 \$86.73	\$46.58 \$93.45	\$50.19 \$100.69	\$54.08 \$108.49	\$58.27 \$116.90
1"	\$84.34 \$168.68	\$90.88 \$181.58	\$97.92 \$195.65	\$105.51 \$210.81	\$113.68 \$227.15	\$122.50 \$244.75
1.5"	\$158.03 \$316.06	\$170.28 \$339.66	\$183.47 \$365.98	\$197.69 \$394.34	\$213.01 \$424.90	\$229.52 \$457.83
2"	\$246.47 \$492.94	\$265.57 \$529.36	\$286.15 \$570.39	\$308.33 \$614.60	\$332.23 \$662.23	\$357.97 \$713.55
3"	\$452.82 \$905.64	\$487.91 \$971.98	\$525.73 \$1,047.31	\$566.47 \$1,128.48	\$610.37 \$1,215.94	\$657.68 \$1,310.18
4"	\$747.60 \$1,495.20	\$805.54 \$1,604.30	\$867.97 \$1,728.63	\$935.24 \$1,862.60	\$1,007.72 \$2,006.95	\$1,085.81 \$2,162.49
6"	\$1,484.56 \$2,969.12	\$1,599.61 \$3,185.10	\$1,723.58 \$3,431.95	\$1,857.16 \$3,697.93	\$2,001.09 \$3,984.52	\$2,156.18 \$4,293.32
8"	\$2,368.90 \$4,737.80	\$2,552.49 \$5,082.07	\$2,750.31 \$5,475.93	\$2,963.46 \$5,900.31	\$3,193.12 \$6,357.58	\$3,440.59 \$6,850.29
10"	\$3,400.64 \$6,801.28	\$3,664.19 \$7,295.19	\$3,948.16 \$7,860.57	\$4,254.15 \$8,469.76	\$4,583.84 \$9,126.17	\$4,939.09 \$9,833.45
<b>Private Fire (excludes most residential homes) - Monthly Shown in Black, Bi-monthly in Blue</b>						
2"	\$24.26 \$48.52	\$25.75 \$51.49	\$27.74 \$55.48	\$29.89 \$59.78	\$32.21 \$64.41	\$34.70 \$69.40
3"	\$61.75 \$123.50	\$64.26 \$128.52	\$69.24 \$138.48	\$74.61 \$149.21	\$80.39 \$160.77	\$86.62 \$173.23
4"	\$126.41 \$252.82	\$130.69 \$261.38	\$140.82 \$281.64	\$151.74 \$303.47	\$163.50 \$326.99	\$176.17 \$352.33
6"	\$358.48 \$716.96	\$369.11 \$738.21	\$397.71 \$795.42	\$428.54 \$857.07	\$461.75 \$923.49	\$497.53 \$995.06
8"	\$758.74 \$1,517.48	\$780.32 \$1,560.64	\$840.80 \$1,681.59	\$905.96 \$1,811.91	\$976.17 \$1,952.33	\$1,051.82 \$2,103.64
10"	\$1,360.81 \$2,721.62	\$1,398.88 \$2,797.75	\$1,507.29 \$3,014.58	\$1,624.11 \$3,248.21	\$1,749.98 \$3,499.95	\$1,885.60 \$3,771.20

**Table 2: Proposed Five-Year Schedule of Bi-Monthly Water Commodity Rates**

Table 2 shows the bi-monthly water commodity (consumption) rate, which is the amount each customer pays per 100 gallons of water used. There is a two-tier consumption rate based on units, with 1 unit being equal to 100 gallons. Tier 1 is 0 to 125 units; Tier 2 is water consumed that is greater than 125 units.

Commodity Rates per Unit (1 unit = 100 gallons)	Current	1/1/2026	1/1/2027	1/1/2028	1/1/2029	1/1/2030
Tier 1: 0-125	\$0.562	\$0.610	\$0.657	\$0.708	\$0.763	\$0.822
Tier 2: > 125	\$0.716	\$0.776	\$0.836	\$0.901	\$0.971	\$1.046

**Table 3: Average Bill Impacts**

Table 3 compares bills under the current 2025 rates against total bills with the same water usage in 2026, if proposed rate adjustments are adopted by City Council.

	Bi-Monthly	Monthly
<b>Residential - Assumes 5/8" Meter and Using 137 hgal Over 2-month Billing Period</b>		
Current Bill	\$159.08	\$79.54
Proposed Bill	\$172.29	\$86.15
<b>Increase</b>	<b>\$13.21</b>	<b>\$6.61</b>
<b>Commercial - Assumes 5/8" Meter and Using 629 hgal Over 2-month Billing Period</b>		
Current Bill	\$511.35	\$255.68
Proposed Bill	\$554.08	\$277.04
<b>Increase</b>	<b>\$42.73</b>	<b>\$21.37</b>



## How Do I Protest Proposed Water Charges?

The proposed water rate adjustments are subject to a majority protest process under Proposition 218. Any record owner of a property that receives water service from the City or occupant who is directly liable for payment of the City's water service charges (Customer of Record) may submit a written protest against the proposed rate adjustments for water service. Owners of multiple parcels may file one protest for each parcel owned within the City's service area. Only one written protest against the proposed rate adjustments for water service rates per parcel will be counted in determining whether a majority protest exists.

## WRITTEN PROTEST PROCEDURES

You have the right to protest proposed water rate adjustments. Protests will only be considered valid if they meet the following procedural requirements:

- Protests **must be submitted in writing** by the property owner or customer of record. **By law, the City cannot accept email, fax, or photocopied protests.** Written protests may only be submitted as follows:
  - + **By Mail or Courier** sent to the City of El Monte, ATTN: City Clerk, 11333 Valley Boulevard, El Monte, CA 91731
  - + **In Person** delivered to the Office of the City Clerk, El Monte City Hall - East, 11333 Valley Boulevard, El Monte 91731, OR during the Public Hearing at 7 p.m. Wednesday, December 10, 2025.
- **All protests must be received by the City Clerk before the conclusion of the public comment portion of the Public Hearing.** Any protest received after the conclusion of the Public Hearing will not be accepted or considered. **Only one written protest per affected property will be counted.** Note that a written protest is not the same as a legal objection, as described in the next column.
- Protests must include the following information:
  - + Clearly stated opposition to the proposed rate adjustments for water service rates and charges;



- + Name of the record property owner or account holder who is submitting the Protest;
- + Identification by street address or other clear identification of the property for which the protest is made; and
- + Signature and legibly printed name of the record property owner or customer who is submitting the Protest.

There are 3,691 real property parcels that will be affected by the City's adoption of the proposed schedule of adjusted water service rates and charges. At the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the City Clerk will tabulate the total number of valid and timely submitted written protests submitted by the record owners of affected parcels. Again, only one written protest will be counted per affected parcel.

1. If written protests are submitted for 50% or less of the total number of affected parcels, the City Council will be authorized to approve the proposed schedule of adjusted water service rates and charges.
2. Alternatively, if written protests are submitted for more than 50% (50%+1) of the total number of affected parcels, then the City Council will be prohibited from approving the proposed schedule of water service rates and charges.

## **WRITTEN OBJECTION PROCEDURES**

### **Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies How do I preserve my ability to judicially challenge the proposed rates?**

Pursuant to California Government Code Sections 53759.1 and 53759.2, a person or entity will be prohibited from bringing a judicial action or proceeding alleging that the proposed rates do not comply with Proposition 218 unless that person or entity has submitted a written Objection to the proposed rates. This is known as an Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies requirement and is separate from the Proposition 218 majority Protest process described (left).

### **To exhaust your administrative remedies, your written objection must include the specific grounds for alleging noncompliance of the proposed rates with Proposition 218.**

- Written legal objections **must be received by the City Clerk by 4 p.m., Monday, November 21, 2025.** **Note:** this deadline for submitting a written Objection is weeks ahead of the Public Hearing, whereas written Protests may be submitted until the Hearing is closed (as described in the left column).
- Written legal objections will only be considered valid if they meet the following procedural and substantive requirements and are submitted as follows:

- + **By Mail or Courier** sent to the City of El Monte, ATTN: City Clerk, 11333 Valley Boulevard, El Monte, CA 91731
- + **In person** delivered to the Office of the City Clerk, El Monte City Hall - East, 11333 Valley Boulevard, El Monte, 91731
- Objections must include the following information:
  - + Objector's name, parcel number, and/or address.
  - + A statement that your communication constitutes a legal objection.
  - + A description of the nature of the legal objection, with sufficient specificity to allow City staff to respond in writing.
  - + A statement that the proposed water rates and charges violate Proposition 218. An Objection without an explanation of its underlying basis is legally insufficient.
- The City will review each written Objection and respond in writing to all timely written submittals.

**Failure to submit a legal objection or to meet the requirements set forth above will bar any right to challenge the proposed water rates and charges through a legal proceeding.**

At the Public Hearing on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, the City Council will accept and consider all written protests, written objections, and hear all oral comments on the proposed sewer rate changes. Oral comments will not be counted as protests unless accompanied by a written protest as outlined herein, but oral comments, as with all other written comments, protests, and objections, will be considered by the City Council prior to rendering a decision and action on the proposed rate changes. A written objection may be counted as a written protest provided it satisfies all the same requirements and includes all the same information as is required for a written protest to be considered valid.



The reasons for the rate adjustments, the basis upon which they were calculated, and the amount of the proposed water rates are described in more detail in the Rate Study Report that is on file with the City Clerk and available on the City website at [tinyurl.com/5ez4bdsp](https://tinyurl.com/5ez4bdsp). To request a copy of this Notice, contact the City Clerk's Office at [cityclerk@elmonteca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@elmonteca.gov) or (626) 580-2016.



### **Statute of Limitations for Challenging Proposed Rates**

Please note that pursuant to California Government Code section 53759, there is a 120-day statute of limitations for judicially challenging all rates set forth in this Notice that runs from the effective date of or the date of the final passage, adoption, or approval of the resolution or motion approving the rates, whichever is later.



City of El Monte  
ATTN: City Clerk  
11333 Valley Boulevard  
El Monte, CA 91731

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# Notice of Public Hearing

To Consider Proposed Adjustments to  
Water Rates and Charges

This notice is available in English, Spanish, Chinese,  
and Vietnamese.  
See inside for information.

Este aviso está disponible en el sitio web en inglés,  
español, chino y vietnamita. Ver adentro para  
obtener información.

网站上有本通知的英文、西班牙文、中文和  
越南文版本。参阅正文了解信息。

Thông báo này có sẵn trên trang web bằng tiếng  
Anh, tiếng Tây Ban Nha, tiếng Trung và tiếng Việt.  
Xem bên trong để biết thông tin.



## Proposed Adjustments to Water Rates and Charges

**When:** 6 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard Wednesday, December 10, 2025

**Where:** El Monte City Hall – East City Council Chambers, 11333 Valley Boulevard,  
El Monte, CA 91731