



200 Monte Verda Street, Suite B
Angels Camp, CA 95222

**City of Angels Camp
Proposition 218 Notification
NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES**

APN Number: <INSERT APN#>

<INSERT OWNER NAME>
<INSERT ADDRESS 1>
<INSERT ADDRESS 2>

Hearing Date & Time: MONTH DAY, 2024, at 6:00 PM or as soon thereafter as possible
Hearing Location: Angels Camp Fire Dept. 1404 Vallecito Rd, Angels Camp, CA 95222
Questions / More Information: City of Angels at (209) 736-2181

Why Am I Receiving This Notice?

You are receiving this notice in accordance with Proposition 218, a state law which requires providers of public utility services (including water and wastewater service) to notify rate payers of increases in proposed rates. The property listed above receives service from the **City of Angels Camp (“the City”)**.

This notice is intended to provide you with information on the service provided by the City, the reasons for the proposed rates, and the methods by which you can protest the proposed rates if you desire.

What Service Do Rates Fund?

The City provides water service to approximately 1,813 connections and wastewater service to 1,732 connections.

Why is a Rate Increase Needed?

Current rates do not reflect the full cost necessary to provide these services. The proposed rates are designed to sustainably operate and maintain each utility.

Basis of Proposed Rates

Article XIIIID of the California Constitution (also known as Proposition 218) requires that providers of public utility services levy service charges that are clearly linked to the cost of providing the service to each parcel. The cost of service calculation includes expenses such as debt service, labor, energy, chemicals and other supplies, and the cost of providing required maintenance of the system. The rates proposed herein are designed to meet all legal requirements and fairly and equitably recover the required revenue from all customers. The rates were developed by an independent consultant retained by the City and the final findings of that report, which include the detailed calculations showing the basis for these fees, are available on the **City of Angels web site under the Public Works Department section.**

Proposed Rate Changes

The City is proposing to eliminate the current structure for charging non-residential wastewater customers and charge a uniform rate for winter usage. The proposed changes are designed to comply with the legal requirements of Proposition 218. If approved, these rates will be adopted as maximum rates for the next five years.

Current and proposed water and wastewater service charges:

Current & Proposed Water Rates

<u>Monthly Fixed Rates</u>		<u>Meter Charges</u>				
Effective Date	Current	7/1/2025	7/1/2026	7/1/2027	7/1/2028	7/1/2029
Proposed Maximum Increase (%) ¹		3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
<u>Meter Size</u>						
5/8"	\$46.93	\$48.34	\$49.79	\$51.28	\$52.82	\$54.40
3/4"	\$70.40	\$72.51	\$74.69	\$76.92	\$79.23	\$81.60
1"	\$117.33	\$120.85	\$124.48	\$128.20	\$132.05	\$136.00
1 1/2"	\$234.65	\$241.70	\$248.95	\$256.40	\$264.10	\$272.00
2"	\$375.44	\$386.72	\$398.32	\$410.24	\$422.56	\$435.20
3"	\$703.95	\$725.10	\$746.85	\$769.20	\$792.30	\$816.00
4"	\$1,173.25	\$1,208.50	\$1,244.75	\$1,282.00	\$1,320.50	\$1,360.00
6"	\$2,346.51	\$2,417.00	\$2,489.50	\$2,564.00	\$2,641.00	\$2,720.00
Construction Meter	\$70.40	\$72.51	\$74.69	\$76.92	\$79.23	\$81.60

Volumetric Rates

All use, \$ / hcf ²	\$1.69	\$1.74	\$1.79	\$1.84	\$1.90	\$1.96
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Monthly Fixed Rates

Proposed Maximum Increase (%) ³		6.22%	6.22%	6.22%	6.22%	5.00%
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Meter Size

	<u>UWPA Fees (Water Year 3)</u>					
5/8"	\$13.91	\$14.78	\$15.70	\$16.67	\$17.71	\$18.60
3/4"	\$20.86	\$22.16	\$23.54	\$25.01	\$26.57	\$27.89
1"	\$34.77	\$36.94	\$39.24	\$41.68	\$44.28	\$46.49
1 1/2"	\$69.55	\$73.88	\$78.48	\$83.36	\$88.55	\$92.98
2"	\$111.27	\$118.20	\$125.56	\$133.38	\$141.68	\$148.76
3"	\$208.64	\$221.63	\$235.43	\$250.08	\$265.65	\$278.93
4"	\$347.73	\$369.39	\$392.38	\$416.81	\$442.75	\$464.89
6"	\$695.46	\$738.77	\$784.76	\$833.61	\$885.51	\$929.78
Construction Meter	\$20.86	\$22.16	\$23.54	\$25.01	\$26.57	\$27.89

Current & Proposed Wastewater Rates

Monthly Fixed Rates

Effective Date	Current	7/1/2025	7/1/2026	7/1/2027	7/1/2028	7/1/2029
Proposed Maximum Increase (%) ¹		2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Residential Users	\$107.95	\$110.11	\$112.31	\$114.56	\$116.85	\$119.19
Non-Residential Minimum Charges ⁴	\$136.30	\$139.03	\$141.81	\$144.65	\$147.54	\$150.49

Volumetric Rates

Non-Residential Users, \$ / hcf, winter use ⁵	Various	\$0.0212	\$0.0216	\$0.0220	\$0.0224	\$0.0228
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¹ Represents maximum annual % increases, actual annual % increases implemented may be less than proposed as approved by City Council.

² HCF = hundred cubic feet or approximately 748 gallons.

³ Should UWPA declare a water year 4, 5, or 6, the City may automatically recalculate rates for passthrough fees.

⁴ Mixed class users are subject to one minimum commercial charge per commercial account plus one residential charge per residential dwelling unit.

⁵ Winter use is calculated as the monthly use from January - April of the prior year divided by four.

Where Does Our Water Come From?

The City's water supply is provided through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the City of Angels and Union Public Utility District (UPUD). The JPA, known as Utica Water and Power Authority (UWPA), has served the City and its partner agency since 1995 when local officials purchased the 27-mile-long flumes, ditches, and two powerhouses from PG&E.

From 1995 to 2013 communities served by UWPA received water from the North Fork Stanislaus River at little to no cost. This availability of this nearly cost-free service was dependent upon three factors. The first factor is water availability in good water years for hydro-power generation. Water availability is outside of human control and dependent upon snowpack within a given year. Less water results in less power generation resulting in less revenue to offset low to no cost water to customers. This leads to the second factor, power generation. The ability to sell power is not only affected by the amount of Sierra snowpack but also the energy markets. The system, once innovative, has been disrupted by advances in renewable energy sources as well as competition from natural gas. And finally, the third factor influencing low cost water is the lack of investment in the maintenance and security of the gold mine era distribution system.

Today, maintenance deferral is less and less of an option for savings, and the agency is challenged with funding the impending FERC relicensing requiring a financial investment and reserve strategy, and the changing energy markets are chipping away at what was once a low-cost water supply.

The system also experienced unprecedented dry years between the years of 2012-2015, combined with the factors previously discussed, has drained UWPA reserves.

The study is based on an average UWPA water year 3 and there would be a deficit if they average a water year 4, 5, or 6. Member agencies have the responsibility to ensure the financial viability of the JPA.

Proposed UWPA fees are based on an average water year (Water Year 3), with larger meters paying more in proportion to the customer's meter capacity.

UWPA Fee Passthrough

Should Utica Water and Power Authority (UWPA) declare a Water Year 4, 5, or 6 and passthrough additional costs to the City ("Pass-Through Amount"), the City may automatically recalculate its rates to include the Pass-Through Amount. If this occurs, the automatic City rate adjustment will not require a public hearing or any additional action by the City Council. At least 30 days before the effective date of the adjustment, the City will provide its customers with notice of the expected adjustment(s), which will generally be calculated as the total projected cost increase divided by the projected meter equivalents.

Low Income Discount Program

To help offset the impact of rate increases for low income customers, the City has established a low income discount program utilizing non-rate sources of revenue (late payment fees). The applicant may only apply for their permanent residence and must be the bill payer of record and must provide a copy of a current PG&E bill showing participation in the PG&E CARE Program, or required documentation verifying a household income at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines. For more information on the program please contact: (209) 736-2181.

Compliance with Proposition 218

Proposition 218 requires that public utility providers follow a strictly defined process for increasing fees such as water and wastewater service rates. Generally speaking, the City must 1) inform affected property owners of the proposed rates, 2) clearly demonstrate the amounts of the proposed rates are cost justified (the cost of service study is on file at the City and 3) hold a public hearing no less than 45 days after noticing property owners, at which the City hears all protests to the proposed rates. These rates are subject to “majority protest,” meaning they **cannot be imposed** if a majority of affected property owners submit **written** protests opposing the rates.

To Protest This Change

- 1) Notify the City in writing (200 Monte Verda Street, Suite B, Angels Camp, CA 95222, Attn: City Clerk) prior to the close of the **DATE**, public hearing that you oppose the proposed increase to either the water rates, wastewater rates, or both. You must identify the property affected by the proposed rates and the property owner must sign the **written protest**. OR
- 2) Attend the **DATE**, public hearing at the time and place identified on page 1 of this notice and submit a written protest before the close of the public hearing.

Pursuant to California Government Code 53759, there will be a 120 day statute of limitations for challenging any new, increased, or extended fees, including water and wastewater rates.