

# AGENDA STAFF REPORT

**MEETING NAME:** REGULAR BOARD MEETING(S)

**MEETING DATE(S):** FEBRUARY 13 & 18, 2025

**FROM:** MARION CHAMPION – ASSISTANT GENERAL  
MANAGER

**FOR:** ACTION   X   DIRECTION        INFORMATION       



## ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2025-01 ESTABLISHING A PROCEDURE FOR PROPERTY OWNER OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED WATER/SEWER FEES OR SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Directors adopt Ordinance No. 2025-01, establishing a procedure for property owner objections to proposed water/sewer fees or special assessments.

### SUMMARY

California recently enacted AB 2257, a bill sponsored by the ACWA and authored by Assemblymember Lori Wilson (D-Suisun City), which assists local agencies in defending against lawsuits under Proposition 218, which governs assessments, fees, and charges levied by local agencies. The bill establishes a formal objection procedure for ratepayers to raise concerns about proposed rate changes before litigation becomes an option. This process is designed to address disputes during the public participation stage, reducing the likelihood of surprise lawsuits after rates are approved. AB 2257 aligns with existing constitutional provisions and Proposition 218, which set standards for public notice, hearings, and protest procedures.

### ANALYSIS

This legislation mirrors the California Environmental Quality Act process, emphasizing transparency and early resolution of disputes. It does not bypass the public participation process mandated by Proposition 218 but enhances it by creating a parallel objection mechanism. By fostering communication between agencies and ratepayers, AB 2257 seeks to minimize litigation risks and promote collaborative problem-solving in public rate-setting processes.

### FISCAL IMPACT & STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

This action does not necessitate additional budget adjustments or impose new costs. It aligns with Strategic Plan Smart Goal No. 3 ensuring long-term financial stability by implementing sound financial management practices and minimizing risks.

### ATTACHMENTS

DRAFT Ordinance No. 2025-01

FINANCIAL DATA		
Cost Associated with this action:	None	
Current FY cost:		
Future FY cost:	-0-	
Is it covered in current year budget:	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Budget adjustment needed:	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, year needed:	NA	
All previous contracts including dates, amounts and board approvals are attached or have been made available.		
FUNDING SOURCES		
Source of funds:		
BID/Job#		
Current BID/Job balance		
Balance remaining if approved:		