**To:** River Pines Public Utility District Record Property Owners

**From:** River Pines Public Utility District Board of Directors

**NOTICE OF INTENDED WATER AND WATER USAGE RATE CHANGE**

**OFFICIAL BALLOT ENCLOSED**

This notice is intended to inform you that the River Pines Public Utility District (RPPUD) will hold a public hearing regarding proposed changes to the utility rate and fee schedule for properties receiving RPPUD water services. The proposed changes will be considered by the RPPUD Board of Directors at the date, time and location specified below.

Consistent with the requirements of Proposition 218, this notice also provides the changes in utility rates and fees, basis for the changes and how to protest the proposed changes.

**Affected Parcels**

The proposed fee will apply to all parcels that have immediate access to or currently receive District water services.

**Parcel Rates – Year 1 Increase – Beginning January 1, 2025**

The proposed change to the RPPUD Rate and Fee Schedule:

**WATER RATES:**

Residential Monthly Base Service Rate $68.50

Commercial Monthly Base Service Rate $68.50

**WATER USAGE RATES:**

1 - 3,000 gallons per month usage $4.74/K

3,001 - 5,000 gallons per month usage $7.50/K

5,001 - 7,000 gallons per month usage $10.50/K

7,001 - 9,000 gallons per month usage $15.50/K

9,001 - 999,999 gallons per month usage $50.50/K

**Parcel Rates – Year 2 Increase – Beginning January 1, 2026**

The proposed change to the RPPUD Rate and Fee Schedule:

**WATER RATES:**

Residential Monthly Base Service Rate $76.00

Commercial Monthly Base Service Rate $76.00

**WATER USAGE RATES:**

1-3,000 gallons per month usage $5.00

3,001 – 5,000 gallons per month usage $8.50

5,001 – 7,000 gallons per month usage $11.50

7,001 – 9,000 gallons per month usage $16.50

9,001 – 999,999 gallons per month usage $52.50

**Parcel Rates – Year 3 Increase – Beginning January 1, 2027**

The proposed change to the RPPUD Rate and Fee Schedule:

**WATER RATES:**

Residential Monthly Base Service Rate $83.60

Commercial Monthly Base Service Rate $83.60

**WATER USAGE RATES:**

1 - 3,000 gallons per month usage $5.50/K

3,001 - 5,000 gallons per month usage $9.50/K

5,001 - 7,000 gallons per month usage $12.50/K

7,001 - 9,000 gallons per month usage $17.50/K

9,001 - 999,999 gallons per month usage $54.50/K

**Parcel Rates – Year 4 Increase – Beginning January 1, 2028**

The proposed change to the RPPUD Rate and Fee Schedule:

**WATER RATES:**

Residential Monthly Base Service Rate $91.96

Commercial Monthly Base Service Rate $91.96

**WATER USAGE RATES:**

1 - 3,000 gallons per month usage $6.00/K

3,001 - 5,000 gallons per month usage $10.50/K

5,001 - 7,000 gallons per month usage $13.50/K

7,001 - 9,000 gallons per month usage $18.50/K

9,001 - 999,999 gallons per month usage $56.50/K

**Parcel Rates – Year 5 Increase – Beginning January 1, 2029**

The proposed change to the RPPUD Rate and Fee Schedule:

**WATER RATES:**

Residential Monthly Base Service Rate $101.16

Commercial Monthly Base Service Rate $101.16

**WATER USAGE RATES:**

1 - 3,000 gallons per month usage $6.50/K

3,001 - 5,000 gallons per month usage $11.50/K

5,001 - 7,000 gallons per month usage $14.50/K

7,001 - 9,000 gallons per month usage $19.50/K

9,001 - 999,999 gallons per month usage $58.50/K

**Reason for Rate Increase**

The proposed increase will be used for all aspects of operations of the District, including but not limited to: 1) operations and maintenance; 2) professional services; and 3) capital facility repairs and improvements. Reserve funds must be available for emergencies and for known major repairs currently required to maintain a functioning water treatment and water delivery system.

**Basis for Rate Increase**

With a debilitating distribution system and an aged sewer system, expenses have increased nearly 45%. Operating permits have increased along with liability and workers compensation Insurance. Vendor and service provider costs have increased, as well as testing requirements with the District still absorbing those increases. Another increase is electricity rates which have increased nearly 35% to 40% over the past couple of years with no end of increases in sight. The District has added more laboratory testing requirements from State of California regulatory agencies. The current rates do not allow the district to keep up with the expenses. If rates do not increase and the District cannot pay its bills, there is a good chance that the state will dissolve River Pines Public Utility District.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

A public hearing will be held during a special meeting of the RPPUD Board of Directors on November 6, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the River Pines Town Hall, 22900 Canyon Avenue, River Pines, CA.

This notice has been sent to all property owners of record that are directly responsible for payment for RPPUD water charges. If adopted by the RPPUD Board of Directors, the proposed changes to the RPPUD Rate and Fee Schedule would become effective January 1, 2025.

**Written Protest**

Pursuant to Proposition 218, you may express support for or opposition to any or all of the proposed rate and fee schedule changes, prior to the close of the public hearing referenced above.

A written protest must contain:

1. The Ballot sent to the property owner and returned to the District in the provided return envelope sealed.
2. Name of the record property owner; and
3. Identity of the affected parcel by Assessor’s Parcel Number (APN); and
4. Original signature of the record property owner of the affected parcel.
5. Each owner must submit their own protest with the above information.

Protests ballots must be submitted to the Board of Directors by:

1. Delivery to the RPPUD District Office, 22900 Canyon Avenue, River Pines, CA; or
2. Mail to RPPUD, Attention: Board of Directors, PO Box 70, River Pines, CA 95675; or
3. Personally submit a verbal protest at the public hearing prior to its close.

**All ballots must be received NO LATER THAN – October 29th**