**RIVER PINES PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED INCREASED

RATES AND CHARGES FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER

SERVICES

**DATE & TIME OF PUBLIC HEARING**: **Wednesday January 15, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.**

**LOCATION: River Pines Town Hall**

 **22900 Canyon Avenue, River Pines, California**

You are receiving this notice because you are a River Pines Public Utility District water or wastewater customer or own property that is receiving water or wastewater service from the District. At a public hearing to be held on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, the District will consider a proposal to adjust rates and charges for water and wastewater service. The public hearing will be held at the River Pines Town Hall, 22900 Canyon Avenue, River Pines, California. The hearing will start at 5:30 p.m.

**River Pines Public Utility District Service**

The River Pines Public Utility District provides wastewater or water to about 218 residential and commercial customers, totaling about 550 people.

The District’s water and wastewater system operation is funded solely through water rates and service charges. Those revenues are used to pay for the ongoing operation, maintenance, repair, and replacement of the existing systems, including administrative costs.

The District’s population served is much smaller than most, making individual bills higher. In recent years, the District faced financial challenges from several causes, notably the prolonged drought that reduced revenue while increasing costs. Despite cost reductions, including deferred maintenance and state requirements, the District’s financial reserves are depleted. At the same time, costs for energy, treatment supplies, and much else have gone up. And meanwhile, the District’s pipes, pumps, storage tanks, and treatment plants are very old and have been in need of constant repair.

Continuing to hold costs down by deferring maintenance and keeping staff at a bare minimum has made the problem of aging infrastructure worse. Much of the District’s water and wastewater system was installed in 1927 and 1982 respectively. It has been nearly impossible to keep maintenance up with constant ongoing operation failures.

In 2014, there was a Rate Study completed for River Pines Public Utility District by California Rural Water Association which the State required the District to get done. The following chart illustrates in 2014 where the River Pines Public Utility District’s water rates should be. This was 20 years ago.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Meter Size | Theoretical base rate by meter size | ProposedBase Rate as% of Theoretical Base Rate | Existing Base Rate | Proposed Base Rate3 for Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 |
| Annual Increase | 8.0% | 8.0% | 8.0% | 8.0% |
| 3/4" | $75.32 | 93% | $45.36 | $69.70 | $75.28 | $81.30 | $87.80 | $94.82 |
| 1" | $133.90 | 93% | $45.36 | $124.00 | $133.92 | $144.63 | $156.20 | $168.70 |

The 2014 Rate Study illustrates the deficiencies in the District’s current rate structure. Even with the proposed rate increases, the District, 20 years later, is still deficient. Without taking the steps to begin making investments in the system now we will not have reliable water service for our community and severely risk the State dissolving the River Pines Public Utility District.

**Reasons for the Proposed Water and Wastewater Rates and Charges**

The proposed water and wastewater rates and charges are necessary to cover the ongoing and increasing cost of providing services including operation and maintenance costs, debt service obligations, and water system replacement and rehabilitation needs, as well as to establish and maintain prudent financial reserves consistent with established policies. These costs include labor, costs, energy, fuel and chemical costs; water production and treatment costs; water distribution costs; administrative and customer service costs; and costs related to facilities replacement, rehabilitation, and upgrade of the water system. Critical factors necessitating additional water rate and service charge revenue currently include:

* Ensuring that existing long-term debt service costs and related obligations are met.
* Providing funding for planned replacement, rehabilitation, and upgrades to water and wastewater facilities.
* Replenishing critically low financial reserves to meet current debt covenants, and to be financially able to respond to an emergency.
* Improving revenue stability through adjustments to the rate structure.

The proposed water and wastewater rates and charges are supported by a five-year period. Proposed rates follow the existing water and wastewater structures and have been adjusted to reflect revenue requirements. The water rates include monthly tier service charges based on water usage.

**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

**Parcel Rate Increase - Beginning January 1, 2025 - T**he proposed change to the RPPUD Rate and Fee Schedule:

**SEWER RATES:**

Residential Monthly Base Service Rate $89.75

Commercial Monthly Base Service Rate $101.45

**Additional Information on Proposed Changes to Water Rates and Charges**

Further information on the proposed water rates and charges, including the River Pines Public Utility District 2014 Water Rate Study report prepared by California Rural Water Association, is available for review during business hours at the River Pines Public Utility District, 22900 Canyon Avenue, River Pines.

**How to Protest the Proposed Rates and Service Charges**

All owners and tenants of property receiving water or wastewater service, all water or wastewater service customers and interested persons are invited to attend the public hearing and be heard about the proposed changes to the District’s water rates and service charges. An owner receiving water or wastewater service may protest the proposed water or wastewater rates and service charges by submitting a written protest by mail to River Pines Public Utility District, PO Box 70, River Pines, CA 95675; or in person to River Pines Public Utility District, 12900 Canyon Avenue, River Pines, CA 95675. Written protests must be received (not postmarked) by the General Manager before the close of the public hearing to be held on January 15, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. Any protest submitted by e-mail or other electronic means will not be accepted.

To be valid, a protest must be signed by the property owner and must include the assessor’s parcel number, the address of the parcel served, the customer’s account number for the parcel served, and a statement specifying whether the protestant is protesting the District’s proposed water rates and charges or wastewater rates , or both to be considered by the District’s Board of Directors at the public hearing set for January 15, 2025. To be valid, a protest must relate to a parcel that receives the service for which the rates and charges are protested. Only one written protest per identified parcel will be counted for purposes of determining whether there is a majority protest. The form below must be completed and returned **“sealed”** in the envelope provided for protest (do NOT put payments with protest). The General Manager, or her designee, will tabulate the protests, and any member of the public may observe the tabulation. All protest forms will be considered public records.

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**River Pines Public Utility District Proposed Increased Rates & Charges for Water and**

 **Wastewater Service**

Public Hearing Date & Time: Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

 River Pines Town Hall

 22900 Canyon Avenue, River Pines, California

☐ I hereby protest the proposed increased rates and charges for water service to considered by District’s Board of Directors at the public hearing set for January 15, 2025.

☐ I hereby protest the proposed increased rates for wastewater service to be considered by District’s Board of Directors at the public hearing set for January 15,2025.

Reason(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Assessor Parcel Number of parcel served:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address of parcel served:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

RP customer account number of parcel served:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I declare that I am the owner of the above listed parcel, or tenant at the above listed property.

Property Owner Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_