

# WOODLANDS MUTUAL WATER COMPANY

PO BOX 19  
ARROYO GRANDE, CA 93421  
www.woodlandsmwc.com

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TELEPHONE 805-540-5208  
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Dear Customer:

The Woodlands Mutual Water Company (WMWCo) will be considering a water rate increase during a Board meeting scheduled for May 16, 2025. The increase will be needed to meet an upcoming requirement to import additional water from the Supplemental Water Project as described in more detail below.

Over the 20-year history of WMWCo we have been engaged in the Supplemental Water Project, which is currently being implemented in phases by the Nipomo Community Services District (NCSD). The project was conceived to settle a multi-party lawsuit in 2005 over groundwater rights, and it has been implemented by a partnership of the Nipomo urban water purveyors, WMWCo, NCSD, and Golden State Water Company. Since July 2015, the Supplemental Water Project has been delivering water from the City of Santa Maria to the Nipomo area while following a 10-year contractual schedule of minimum water deliveries. We are now reaching a major milestone in the project and want to bring you up to date on coming events.

## What Happens Now?

- In July 2025 WMWCo is required to import the full amount of water required in the litigation agreement which is 416.7 acre feet/year (vs current 170). This is roughly enough water to serve the annual need of 1020 homes.
- WMWCo will be required to pay for the additional water
  - Rates must increase to meet the additional expense
  - There are three options for the rate increase being considered

Our rates for years have been significantly less than our neighboring water providers. With the required purchase of the full amount of supplemental water our rates for the average single family water user will come into closer alignment as summarized in the table on the following page. The Board will be considering the following three rate options:

## Rate Option A: Simplified Structure

- Similar to other adjacent purveyors (NCSD, Santa Maria, Golden State)
- Fixed bi-monthly charge of \$114 per 1" meter (\$57/month)
- Uniform rate of \$5.20/CCF (1 CCF = 100 cubic feet or 748 gal)
- HOA entities would pay the same as residential/commercial per CCF
- Supplemental water charge would be for capital cost only

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## Rate Option B: Simplified Structure with Separate Irrigation Rate

- Fixed bi-monthly charge of \$114 per 1" meter (\$57/month)
- Domestic water rate of \$5.90/CCF
- Irrigation meter rate of \$3.25/CCF to reduce rate impacts on WMA, CCMA
- Supplemental water charge would be for capital cost only

## Rate Option C: Increase Using Existing Rate Structure

- Increase supplemental water monthly fixed rate by \$59/month
- Increase base rate and tiers to target additional \$14/month

Water Rate Comparison for Average Single Family Residence in Monarch Dunes					
Bi-monthly Fee Type	WMWCo	NCSD	City of SLO	Golden State Water Co (after pending rate increase for 2025)	City of Santa Maria
Base fee (2 months)	\$36.00	\$83.12	\$60.50	\$137.28	\$161.16
Water charge for 30 CCF (2 months)	\$55.60	\$253.50	\$324.98	\$171.23	\$180.70
Supplemental Water Charge (2 months)	\$92.30				
<b>Current Rate Total (2 months)</b>	<b>\$183.90</b>	<b>\$336.62</b>	<b>\$385.48</b>	<b>\$308.51</b>	<b>\$341.86</b>
Potential WMWCo increase for reserves (2 months)	\$28.00				
Potential WMWCo increase for additional supplemental water after July 2025 (2 months)	\$118.00				
<b>Total after planned increase (2 months)</b>	<b>\$329.90</b>	<b>\$336.62</b>	<b>\$385.48</b>	<b>\$308.51</b>	<b>\$341.86</b>

Note: Sewer fees are not included in the table above

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Options A and B propose a simplified method of charging our customers for water, and one that is very similar to the NCSD and Santa Maria systems. Option A is currently the preferred approach based on feedback from our recent meeting.

The Board plans to select a final rate option on May 16, 2025, and the rates would become effective on July 1, 2025. These rates will be reflected on your water bill in early September. We encourage you to attend the next board meeting on May 16, 2025, in the Avila Room to hear the Board's discussion on the options, and to provide input.

Sincerely,

Rob Miller, PE  
General Manager