

**NORTH SAN JOAQUIN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PROPOSITION 218 NOTICE OF
PROPOSED NEW IRRIGATION WATER RATES CHANGES**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing for the proposed new water rates will be held on:

Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 Time: 2:15 p.m.

Place: City of Lodi Public Library, 201 West Locust Street, Lodi, CA 95240

You are receiving this notice because the District believes that you are a property owner whose real property is estimated, but not guaranteed, to be currently capable of receiving water services from the District. If adopted, the proposed new rates would be the maximum allowable per-acre-foot rates for each year designated below. Each year the Board of Directors will determine the actual rates to be charged based upon water availability, the District's budget, and other factors, which actual rates cannot exceed the rates adopted pursuant to this notice.

The North San Joaquin Water Conservation District (NSJWCD or District) proposes to update the District's water rates in order to be able to continue to operate and maintain the District's water facilities to serve the District's South System and Tracy Lake System. This notice only pertains to the rates set forth herein. Existing rates not proposed to be increased shall continue in effect.

PROPOSED RATE RESTRUCTURING. The District currently charges customers a flat fee for surface water delivery in the amount of \$50.00 per acre of real property per year. The District proposes to replace and restructure its water rates as set forth below.

REASON FOR RATE RESTRUCTURING. The District's revenue from rates, fees and charges must adequately fund its operations and maintenance and District administrative costs. Costs of energy, labor, raw materials, and all other components necessary to provide irrigation water and to maintain and repair the facilities used to provide such service have increased. The proposed increases are needed to cover the District's costs in providing irrigation water. The costs do not include costs for major capital improvements.

HOW THE NEW WATER RATES WERE CALCULATED. A rate study has been conducted by Walter Sadler, P.E. (civil). That study concluded that the proposed new rates will provide funds for the District to recover the cost of operation and maintenance and administration. All rates are calculated based on the cost to provide the water service and on the amount of water to be delivered. **The District Consultant's Rate Study may be viewed at www.nsjgroundwater.org or at the District's offices at 318 East Kettleman Lane, Lodi, CA 95240. NSJWCD has also placed a copy of Rate Study for viewing at the City of Lodi Public Library.**

PROPOSED NEW PER-ACRE-FOOT WATER RATES

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
South System with 3,000 AF Delivered	\$93.12	\$95.76	\$98.52	\$101.40	\$104.41
South System with 6,000 AF Delivered	\$71.21	\$73.63	\$76.16	\$78.82	\$81.60

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Tracy Lake System	Under Construction	\$2.00	\$3.10	\$3.10	\$3.10

If approved by the NSJWCD Board after the public hearing on the proposed rates, the above rates would be the maximum allowable per-AF rates for each year designated. For the South System, if 3,000 AF or more but less than 6,000 AF are delivered in any year, then the Board has the right to set a rate that is less than the maximum rate when 3,000 AF is delivered but more than the rate specified when 6,000 AF is delivered. The Tracy Lake System water rates are significantly lower because in addition to the water charge, the Tracy Lake Improvement District landowners will be paying an estimated maximum of \$275 per acre per year in capital and operation and maintenance land assessments.

PROPOSITION 218 PROCESS

Proposition 218 requires local districts to notify property owners of any proposed new rates, fees and charges for **water service**. The NSJWCD Board of Directors will consider new rates for irrigation water during the public hearing listed above. This notice also provides information on the reason for the increases and what the District plans on doing with the additional revenue generated.

HOW TO PROTEST PROPOSED NEW WATER RATES, FEES & CHARGES

Under Proposition 218, the owner of record for a parcel that is subject to the proposed increases can submit a written protest against the proposed increases to the District at or before the time set for the public hearing. Each parcel is only entitled to submit one valid protest without regard to parcel value or size. If a majority of the affected property owners submit written protests, the proposed increases will not go into effect. A valid protest must: (1) be in writing; (2) state opposition to the proposed water rates; (3) state the location of the owner’s parcel by County Assessor’s Parcel Number (APN) or by the parcel’s street address; (3) list the owner’s name(s); (4) have an original signature; and (5) be received at or before the time of the above public hearing.

If the party signing the protest is not shown on the last equalized secured property tax assessment roll of San Joaquin County as the owner of the parcel, then the protest must include written evidence that such party is the owner of the parcel.

Protests may be (1) mailed to North San Joaquin Water Conservation District, P.O. Box E, Victor, CA 95253, Lodi, CA 95253 or (2) personally delivered to the District’s Office located at 318 East Kettleman Lane, Lodi, CA 95240 or (3) personally delivered to the Board at a Board meeting. **All protests must be actually received no later than the time set for the public hearing. All protests received after the time set for the public hearing shall be automatically rejected.**

In rental situations where the tenant pays the irrigation water bills, the property owner is responsible for supplying the tenant with this notice. Tenants may submit a written protest by the deadline specified in this notice, but only one protest per parcel shall be accepted.

If you have any questions, please call Walter Sadler at (916) 213-2300.

Date of Notice: January 26, 2015.