

## We're Updating Our Rate Structure Here's What It Means to You

Your water bill is determined based on what it costs to serve water to your home or business. There are many types of water service and certain costs go with certain services. For example, some customers have larger meter connections, which places more demand on the public water system. The various rates and charges are part of a rate structure. It's what we use to ensure you pay only for the costs associated with your water service. Nothing more, nothing less.



Pump stations lift water throughout our service area. Proposed revisions to the rate structure adjust energy rates to cover the energy cost of pumping water to each Energy Zone.

We've been evaluating our current rate structure and are proposing changes following overarching principles of fairness, understandable, and affordable, while maintaining financial stability and promoting water use efficiency.

This is not about making more money to support the operations of the Contra Costa Water District. It won't. Water flowing from the tap will still be less than a penny per gallon, but the update is important to ensure all customers are paying their fair share.

View the details of our proposed rate structure changes at [ccwater.com/rates](http://ccwater.com/rates).

### This isn't a rate increase.

Updating our rate structure is separate from our annual rate review process. We review modest rate increases every year to cover the rising costs of delivering reliable, high-quality water to your home and business. Updating the rate

## Improving Your Infrastructure

We're continually investing your rate dollars in the critical infrastructure that brings you high-quality water 24 hours a day. Of every rate dollar we collect, approximately 23 cents currently are needed for capital projects and we see this figure rising as the age of the system grows. These renewal and replacement projects are investments to make your water system safe, secure, well-maintained and always ready to meet your needs.

Recently, we've been hard at work upgrading the five-mile Shortcut Pipeline. Like many of our facilities, this pipeline is not visible to the public, but this critical facility connects the Contra Costa Canal near Clyde to the Martinez Reservoir, bypassing the aging loop canal. It is the primary untreated water supply for the City of Martinez, Shell Refinery and other industrial customers. Working on this pipeline is complex. Areas of the pipe are inundated for long periods of time, limiting construction activities to a few months per year. During these upgrades, we improved access for maintenance and added valves that allow us to better operate the pipeline.

structure is different. Our proposed rate structure makes sure the amount you pay accurately reflects the cost to purchase, treat and deliver water to your home or business.

### Potential changes to your bill.

With changes to the rate structure, some Contra Costa Water District customers may see their bill go down by a few dollars, while others may see it go up. Today, the average customer who uses 260 gallons of water per day pays about \$2.17 per day for that service. Under the proposed changes to the rate structure, that customer will see their bill increase by about two pennies per day.

The Board will be reviewing annual rates and charges at the same time as the new structure. If our Board approves a modest rate increase at the same time changes to the rate structure occur, an average customer could see their bill increase by as much as an additional 13 cents per day.

Current cost per day:

**\$2.17**

Cost per day with proposed changes to rate structure:

**\$2.19**

Cost per day with proposed changes to rate structure and rate increase:

**\$2.32**

Based on customer who lives in Energy Zone 2 and uses an average 260 gallons per day.

The proposed changes to our rate structure affect our municipal system partners, too. If you receive water from an agency other than Contra Costa Water District, like the City of Martinez or Diablo Water District, contact that agency to find out whether these changes will affect your bill.

### We're here to help.

Understanding these proposed changes is important. In the coming months, we will have a rate estimator on our website to help you see how these changes could affect your water bill. We'd also be happy to discuss the changes. If you have any questions, give us a call at **925-688-8044**. Our knowledgeable customer service staff are available from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.



Crews inspect an old 48-inch valve that was replaced while upgrading the Shortcut Pipeline.

Improvements to the Shortcut Pipeline, and to many other facilities throughout our system, keep your water service reliable and your rates affordable.

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**Don't Miss a Drop!**

Want to find out about local water issues and upcoming events? Like **Contra Costa Water District** on Facebook and follow @CCWD on Twitter.

## Drink with Confidence

Your tap water is safe, clean and refreshing. We're proud to provide you with the best possible water at the lowest possible cost. Every year we issue a summary report of the water quality tests we conduct throughout the year. In June we released our report for 2017. As always, your tap water met all drinking water standards. We encourage you to view the Annual Water Quality Report for 2017 at [ccwater.com/awqr](http://ccwater.com/awqr). If you have any questions, call your water provider.

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# On Tap

1331 Concord Avenue  
Concord, CA 94520

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WATER DISTRICT



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## Los Vaqueros Expansion Wins State Funds



The Bay Area's largest drinking water reservoir has reached a major milestone toward another expansion. In late July, the California Water Commission approved all \$459 million requested by Contra Costa Water District and its 14 potential partners to build new infrastructure and increase Los Vaqueros Reservoir's storage capacity by 72%, which would improve water security for you and others in the Bay Area for upcoming droughts. This is the first time in 40 years that an outside investor has been secured for Los Vaqueros and we're excited for the positive outcomes this will yield for our customers.

Los Vaqueros is an off-stream reservoir ensuring fresh water year-round for Contra Costa Water District customers. The project would add more than 37 billion gallons of storage capacity for participants, including the Bay Area region, Central Valley wildlife refuges and agriculture. This is a unique mix of carefully selected partners that have complementary needs, which reduces the cost for all.

## Golden Eagles Fledge at Watershed

Los Vaqueros Watershed is a prime nesting area for Golden Eagles. Several hiking trails were closed from March through the end of June to protect nesting Golden Eagles in the Watershed. We appreciate everyone's patience during that time, as nesting Golden Eagles are extremely sensitive to the presence of people. The trails are now open, and we have at least four fledged Golden Eagle chicks.



Photo by Marc Crumpler

Los Vaqueros Reservoir, located in eastern Contra Costa County

The state's funding decision is a key part in moving forward. District customers will continue to enjoy the security and high-quality water produced from the reservoir and we have the opportunity to purchase additional drought supply benefits. Notwithstanding this decision, the District will recoup costs in existing facilities from partners that make use of otherwise unused capacity. This recoupment will offset what District customers pay and keeps water rates as low as possible or can be used to purchase new benefits.

There is more work to do to fully develop this project and we will continue to provide regular updates. The next big milestone is for the potential partners to decide whether they are committed to the project. We expect these decisions within the next 12 to 18 months. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2020. Follow the progress of this important project at [ccwater.com/lvstudies](http://ccwater.com/lvstudies).