



# Rates Outreach Update

District Operations Committee - March 8, 2019

# Media Relations

NEWS > LOCAL NEWS

## Marin water district proposes rate hikes, new fee



By **WILL HOUSTON** | whouston@marinij.com |

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1 of 5

Lucy Croy, associate engineer for the Marin Municipal Water District, checks on a 1 million gallon water reservoir in Ross on Friday. The Marin Municipal Water District is proposing rate and fee increases over the next five years to pay for capital costs and infrastructure repairs. (Jeremy Portje/ Marin Independent Journal)

NEWS > LOCAL NEWS

## Public weighs in on Marin water rate hike proposal



By **WILL HOUSTON** | whouston@marinij.com |

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The public's questions and concerns about the Marin Municipal Water District's rate and fee hike proposal were enough to give the district's board of directors some pause this week.

On Tuesday evening, the board was tasked with deciding whether to send out a Proposition 218 notice of the proposed rate hike to its customers and to decide what information that notice would include. The board voted 4-0, with director Larry Russell absent, to delay that decision until its next meeting based on the feedback from the public.

# Community Workshops

## Two Community Workshops

- Mill Valley Community Center: 5 – 8 p.m., April 25, 2019

## Workshop Format

- Presentation/Orientation
- Staff at tables for questions

# Community Workshops and Rate Hearing

## Outreach

- Ads in the Marin IJ: print and digital
- Ads in MarinScope
- Ads on Facebook and Instagram
- MMWD website
- Inside Source eNewsletter

## Public Hearing on Water Rates

**Tuesday, May 14  
7:30 p.m.**

**Marin Municipal Water District  
220 Nellen Avenue, Corte Madera**

Since 1912, the Marin Municipal Water District has provided high-quality, locally sourced water at the lowest possible rates. The proposed rate increases will support critical investments in our water infrastructure, help preserve the health of our watershed, and allow us to continue providing safe, reliable water 24/7/365.

To learn more, visit:

[marinwater.org/rates](https://marinwater.org/rates)



**MARIN MUNICIPAL  
WATER DISTRICT**

# Targeted Outreach

## **Scheduled Meetings:**

- League of Women Voters
- CO\$T
- Marin IJ Editorial Board  
*(including op-ed submission)*
- Ross Valley Rotary Club
- Marin Conservation League
- City of Larkspur
- Town of San Anselmo
- Town of Fairfax
- City of Mill Valley
- Town of Corte Madera
- FireSAFE MARIN

# marinwater.org/rates

Home > Services > Water Rates

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## Proposed Water Rate Increases

MMWD is proposing to raise water rates to invest in our aging infrastructure, stabilize monthly billing rates, better manage long-term debt, responsibly manage our watershed with an emphasis on reducing wildfire risk, and continue to offer the level of service our customers expect from us.



### Why are the increases needed?

As a public agency, MMWD is dedicated to controlling rising costs and ensuring that the price of water is affordable for everyone. At the same time, the costs to deliver water, maintain our infrastructure, manage our watershed and protect against fire risk are changing. MMWD is faced with higher prices for everything from electricity, to water treatment chemicals, to wholesale water purchases. We are not alone; utility costs are increasing across California and the country. As costs rise, our rates must rise to recover the cost of providing this vital service.

### What rate changes are being proposed?

The proposed rate changes include two main components:

- An increase to the water use and fixed charges on your bimonthly water bill, averaging a 4% annual revenue increase, to keep pace with inflation and fund MMWD's ongoing operations and maintenance.

## Upcoming Meetings & Workshops

**Fri Mar. 8**

[District Operations Committee](#)

**Wed Mar. 13**

[Finance Committee](#)

**Tue Mar. 19**

[Board of Directors](#)

[View All](#)

## Quick Links

- [DRAFT 2019 Updated Cost of Service Analysis](#)
- [2017 Cost of Service Analysis](#)
- [Understanding Your Water Bill](#)

[View All](#)

# Rates Outreach Content

- ✓ FAQs
- ✓ Calendar
- ✓ Bill calculator
- ✓ Supporting documents
- ✓ E-newsletter, social media, video

# Related Content



## In This Issue

- Infrastructure Investments Help Ensure Clean, Reliable Water for the Future
- Did You Know?
- Lagunitas Creek Sees Largest Coho Salmon Run in 12 Years
- Water Supply Update: Winter Rains Fill MMWD Reservoirs
- Water Storage, Usage and Rainfall Tables

## Our Mission

Our mission is to manage our natural resources in a sustainable manner and to provide our customers with reliable, high-quality water at a reasonable price.

MMWD's Board of Directors meets at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of every month in the MMWD Board Room, unless otherwise noticed.

### Board of Directors

Larry Beagman  
Jack Gibbins  
Cynthia Koehler  
Armando Quintero  
Larry Russell

### General Manager

Ben Horenstein

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## Infrastructure Investments Help Ensure Clean, Reliable Water for the Future

*Feature photo above: Constructed in the 1950s, San Geronimo Water Treatment Plant is one of MMWD's three water treatment facilities. We're in the midst of a series of phased upgrades to the plants that will extend the lifespan and improve the reliability of our water treatment operations.*

When you turn on your tap and clean water comes out, it's not by accident. It takes a large and complex system to capture, store, treat and deliver water to your home or business 24/7/365. Though much of that water infrastructure is out of sight, it's never out of mind for MMWD.

As the oldest municipal water district in California, we face significant challenges in maintaining our aging infrastructure. Parts of our water system date back more than 100 years. Many of our pipes, tanks and pump stations are reaching the end of their useful lives. Over the past 10 years, we've invested more than \$200 million in capital projects to maintain our system. We expect to invest at least as much over the next 10 years to ensure a clean, reliable water supply for the future.

In short, when you pay your water bill, you are getting much more than just the water you use. You are also helping to take care of the complex system—from reservoirs to pipelines—needed to deliver that water to your tap.



## Did You Know?

◆ Marin's varied topography makes our water system unusually complex. To move water throughout our service area, we rely on 97 pump stations and 128 storage tanks—that's an order of magnitude more infrastructure than many water agencies our size.

◆ MMWD maintains more than 900 miles of pipeline. Laid end-to-end, our pipes would stretch from Marin into Canada! Almost half of our pipes are 50 years or older.

◆ With 18,500 acres of watershed land on Mt. Tam under our care, MMWD is the largest public land manager on the mountain. We're fortunate to have a source of high quality water in our backyard, but caring for our watershed lands has a cost. With support from our customers, we're working to manage the impacts of invasive pest plants and climate change, and to reduce the risk of wildfire to our community.

*Out with the old. Replacing a broken water main originally installed in 1932.*



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## Get the Latest News

in our April-March *On the Water Front* customer newsletter

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Board of Directors



Current Board Agenda



Financial Statements



Marin Water @thinkbluemarkin · Mar 4

Check out our March-April On the Water Front newsletter and learn about the importance of water infrastructure investments, the largest coho salmon run in 12 years, and current water storage in our reservoirs.

[marinwater.org/ArchiveCenter/...](http://marinwater.org/ArchiveCenter/...)



2