

RESOLUTION NO. 25-158

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF VENTURA COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 17 TO INCREASE WATER RATES AND MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2026, PROVIDE FOR COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT CHARGES, AND CONTINUE EXISTING WATER STANDBY CHARGE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-27

WHEREAS, the Ventura County Waterworks District No. 17 (District) provides potable water to the Bell Canyon community, Boeing North American, Inc., and Las Virgenes Municipal Water District customers in the Santa Susana Knolls. The District's entire water supply is imported water from the State Water Project, delivered through the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Calleguas Municipal Water District, and the City of Simi Valley;

WHEREAS, District staff has reviewed the District's costs and revenues and determined that the District must increase its volumetric commodity (water) rates and fixed monthly service charges to provide fiscal stability and meet projected revenue requirements, including operations and maintenance expenses, capital expenditures, and reserve requirements;

WHEREAS, based on increased water rates approved by the Calleguas Municipal Water District (CMWD), the District's cost of imported water will increase by 7.52% for the calendar year 2026;

WHEREAS, the cost of power, labor (salaries and benefits), and materials are all estimated to increase by 5% for the fiscal year (FY) 2026-27;

WHEREAS, the proposed rate increase is needed to continue to purchase imported water from CMWD and expenditures for planned capital projects, as well as repairs and maintenance on aging infrastructure;

WHEREAS, District staff estimates that if the District does not increase its current rates and charges, the District's deficit will continue to grow, and the District's cash balance will go below the board-approved reserve target in FY 2026-27;

WHEREAS, the amounts of the proposed rates and charges do not exceed the estimated reasonable costs of providing the services for which the rates and charges are imposed, and these costs are allocated to payers in a manner that is proportional and bears a fair and reasonable relationship with the payers' burdens, or benefits received, from such services;

WHEREAS, District staff recommends that the proposed rate increases as shown in Exhibit 3, attached hereto, be adopted;

WHEREAS, the District uses the best available information to calculate proposed increases in the cost of imported water purchases from CMWD and has no control over the rates set by CMWD and must pass those costs through to customers upon increases in the wholesale charges;

WHEREAS, the District may provide for the collection of the delinquent unpaid water and monthly service charges and penalties thereon by recording liens pursuant to Government Code sections 54354, 54354.5, and 54355, and may place delinquent charges on the general county tax roll pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 5473a;

WHEREAS, the District's Citizens' Advisory Committee has reviewed the proposed increase to the District's volumetric commodity (water) rates and fixed monthly service charges and unanimously concurred with the proposed increases;

WHEREAS, the proposed increases in the District's water rates and monthly service charges are subject to the majority protest provisions of Proposition 218, set forth in the California Constitution Article XIII D, Section 6;

WHEREAS, the District, in accordance with Proposition 218, has given timely, proper notice of the proposed increases to volumetric commodity (water) rates and monthly service charges to all affected customers (e.g., parcel owners and directly billed tenants), including providing notice of the public hearing on the proposed increases before this Board at the Ventura County Board of Supervisor Hearing Room in the Hall of Administration, at 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California, at a time certain;

WHEREAS, per section 53759 of the Government Code effective January 1, 2022, legal challenges to new increased, or extended fees or charges must be brought within 120 days of either the effective date of the fee or charge or the date of the ordinance, resolution or motion, adopting or approving the fee or charge, whichever is later;

WHEREAS, the Board of the District has now held a public hearing to consider all written protests and oral comments concerning the proposed increases to the District's volumetric commodity (water) rates and fixed monthly service charges;

WHEREAS, the Board, based on the records of the Clerk of the Board, having reviewed all written protests submitted to it before the conclusion of the public hearing, has determined that written protests were not received from a majority of affected customers such as parcel owners and directly billed tenants;

WHEREAS, the District has submitted a report, attached hereto as Exhibit 4, showing a description of each parcel for which this standby charge is to be billed, together with the amount of the charge applicable to each parcel, so that said charges may be collected as a part of the annual general county tax bill;

WHEREAS, under the authority of Water Code section 55501.5 and Government Code Section 54984, the District properly established a water standby charge for undeveloped properties for which water service is made available;

WHEREAS, District staff proposes to keep the current water standby charge unchanged for Fiscal Year 2026-27; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of the Ventura County Waterworks District No. 17 hereby (i) adopts the proposed rate schedule in Exhibit 3, effective beginning on the next regularly scheduled meter reading and billing cycle on or after January 1, 2026, (ii) declares that delinquent charges and all penalties thereon when recorded as provided in Government Code section 54355 shall constitute a lien on the real property served and authorizes the Director of the District or their designee to record such lien, (iii) authorizes collection of delinquent charges on the tax roll pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 5473a, (iv) directs that these rates be published on the District's website, and (v) approves continuing the current water standby charge of \$46.82 per acre (or per parcel less than one acre), up to the maximum charge based on five (5) acres, as shown in Exhibit 4, and collection as part of the County tax roll for fiscal year 2026-27.

Upon motion of Board Member Parvin, seconded by Board Member Gurell, and duly carried, the Board hereby approves and adopts this resolution on this 16th day of December 2025.

By: Janice S. Parvin
Janice S. Parvin, Chair
Board of Ventura County Waterworks
District No. 17

ATTEST:
SEVET JOHNSON
Clerk of the Board of Ventura County Waterworks District No. 17
County of Ventura, State of California

By: [Signature]
Deputy Clerk of the Board

