

ORDINANCE NO. 313

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TAHOE CITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
ESTABLISHING WATER SERVICE RATES, FEES AND CHARGES
AMENDING AND MODIFYING ORDINANCE NO. 263**

WHEREAS, Tahoe City Public Utility District (“District”) was formed pursuant to the California Public Utility District Act and provides potable water and sewer collection service to lands within the District; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Tahoe City Public Utility District (“the Board”) has the authority to establish rates, fees and charges for the provision of water service to District customers; and,

WHEREAS, the Board establishes maximum allowable water rates in this Ordinance for years 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029; and,

WHEREAS, the Board retained HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR) to perform the HDR 2024 Comprehensive Water Rate Study (“Rate Study”), which examined the adequacy of the existing water rates, and provided the basis for adjustments to rates to adequately and equitably fund the operating and capital needs of the water system; and,

WHEREAS, the main objectives of the Rate Study were to develop a projection of water revenues necessary to support the District’s operating and capital cost, proportionally allocate the costs of providing water service to those customers receiving service, and propose cost-based and equitable rates for a five-year period (2025-2029); and,

WHEREAS, the Board reviewed relevant financial data and determined that the water system rates that were in effect would not generate sufficient revenue over the next five years and beyond for prudent operation of the District’s water system; and,

WHEREAS, in the Rate Study, HDR compared the revenue of the water utility to its expenses to determine the overall water rate adjustment required, then allocated the revenue requirements to the various customer classes of service in an equitable manner; and,

WHEREAS, the District conducted several public meetings and workshops at which the proposed water rates were presented and discussed, and public comments and protests were received and considered; and,

WHEREAS, at the regular Board meetings held on August 16, 2024 and September 20, 2024, the Board considered water rate structure recommendations from HDR and District management and at the September 20, 2024 meeting, the Board determined to change water rates effective January 1, 2025 subject to compliance with Article XIIIID of the California Constitution (“Proposition 218”), and to set a Public Hearing for November 15, 2024, in accordance with Proposition 218; and,

WHEREAS, the District has given notice of the proposed new maximum allowable water rates as required by law in that a notice of the Public Hearing of the proposed changes to the water rates was mailed to each property owner and/or tenant whose property receives water service not less than forty-five days prior to the scheduled November 15, 2024, Public Hearing in compliance with Proposition 218; and,

WHEREAS, at the November 15, 2024, regular meeting of the Board of Directors, the Board conducted a Public Hearing on the Rate Study and proposed water rates and received and considered public comment and written protests on the Rate Study and proposed water rates; and,

WHEREAS, at the November 15, 2024 regular Board meeting, after the Public Hearing was closed, the Board received the final count of valid written protests of the proposed water rates with the District Clerk reporting that written protests from _____ water customers out of a total of 5,759 water customers were received, and less than a majority of the property owners and/or tenants whose property receives water service filed valid written protests of the proposed water rates, and it was therefore determined that a majority protest to the proposed sewer rates did not exist; and,

WHEREAS, at the November 15, 2024 regular Board meeting, the Board adopted Resolution No. 24-34 Adopting the HDR 2024 Comprehensive Water Rate Study as the basis for proposed maximum water rates for 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Tahoe City Public Utility District, as follows:

SECTION 1: FINDINGS. After hearing and considering oral and written comments and written protests, considering the evidence offered, and duly deliberating the matters presented, the Board of Directors of Tahoe City Public Utility District finds and determines that:

1. The above recitals are true and correct.
2. The Board is empowered to prescribe, establish, revise, and collect fees and charges to operate and maintain the District's water system.
3. The proceedings related to the proposed increase in water rates have been duly noticed in compliance with the Constitution of the State of California, and other applicable law.
4. The water rates, fees and charges set forth in the attached Exhibits are not discriminatory; and,
5. The rates, fees and charges set forth in the attached Exhibits are not excessive inasmuch as revenues from said rates, fees and charges will not exceed the costs of providing water service.

SECTION 2: WATER RATES. Based upon these findings, the Board approves and directs the implementation of maximum allowable water rates for years 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029, as set forth on Tables 5-8, 5-9, and 5-10 of the HDR 2024 Comprehensive Water Rate Study and attached as Exhibits A and B to this Ordinance.

A. Exhibits "A-1, A-2, and B", Water Connection Charges and Services Charges, Rate Codes 101-199 of Ordinance No. 263 (as amended by Ordinance Numbers 271, 273, 279, 281, and 299) are modified as shown on the Exhibits A and B to this Ordinance No. 313 in order to implement revised water rates as adopted by the Board on November 15, 2024.

B. Except as modified and amended hereby, Ordinance No. 263 (as amended by

Ordinance Numbers 271, 273, 279, 281, and 299) shall in all other respects remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3: EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance and the amendments and modifications hereby made, shall become effective 30 days from the date of its enactment and prior thereto shall be posted and published as required by law.

SECTION 4: REVISED IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER RATES, FEES AND CHARGES. Annually, the Board will review the operating expenses and capital costs of, and the revenues from the water utility received as compared to the projections used in in any then current sewer rate study that has been approved by the Board and that is compliant with the requirements of the California Constitution and other applicable law, as required thereby, or other projections as determined by the Board. The Board will then determine if the water rates, fees and/or charges for the coming year should be modified. The Board may maintain, reduce or increase the water rates, fees and/or charges in any given year provided that the cumulative water rates or fees for any specific year do not exceed the maximum rates or fees that have been approved in compliance with the California Constitution and other applicable law and that charges do not exceed the cost of the services for which they are charged. The Board may revise and establish water rates, fees and charges by resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on the 15th day of November 2024, at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Tahoe City Public Utility District by the following vote:

AYES: Wilkins, Pang, Scoville, Friedman, Beals

NOES: None

ABSENT: None


TAHOE CITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

BY:



Elleyne Beals, President

ATTEST:



Terri Viehmann, District Clerk

Tahoe City Public Utility District
Water Rate Schedule 2025-2029
Effective January 1, 2025
Ordinance No. 313, Exhibit A

CONSUMPTION Rate Schedule							
Monthly Rate Code	Residential Monthly Water Consumption Per 1,000 Gallons <i>(Add to Water Base Rate Below)</i>		Residential Maximum Monthly Water Consumption Rate Per 1,000 Gallons				
			2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Add to applicable consumption	Tier 1	0 - 8,000 gallons	\$3.74	\$4.10	\$4.49	\$4.92	\$5.39
	Tier 2	8,001 - 20,000	\$4.89	\$5.35	\$5.86	\$6.42	\$7.03
	Tier 3	20,001 - 40,000	\$6.70	\$7.34	\$8.04	\$8.80	\$9.64
	Tier 4	40,001 and above	\$12.91	\$14.14	\$15.48	\$16.95	\$18.56
Rate Code	Commercial Monthly Water Consumption <i>(Add to Water Base Rate Below)</i>		Commercial Maximum Monthly Water Consumption Rate Per 1,000 Gallons				
			2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
	All Usage per 1,000 gallons		\$5.08	\$5.56	\$6.09	\$6.67	\$7.30

BASE RATE - Residential and Commercial (To determine water bill select the water base rate that applies to you + consumption from above)								
Rate Code Monthly	Standard base rate by meter size	Water Connection Fee	Maximum Monthly Water Base Rate					
			2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	
150	3/4"	\$2,500	\$106.57	\$116.69	\$127.78	\$139.92	\$153.21	
151	1"	\$3,000	\$177.96	\$194.87	\$213.38	\$233.65	\$255.85	
152	1 1/4"	\$4,500	\$266.41	\$291.72	\$319.43	\$349.78	\$383.01	
153	1 1/2"	\$6,000	\$354.86	\$388.57	\$425.48	\$465.90	\$510.16	
154	2"	\$9,600	\$567.99	\$621.95	\$681.04	\$745.74	\$816.59	
155	3"	\$21,000	\$1,776.44	\$1,945.20	\$2,129.99	\$2,332.34	\$2,553.91	
156	4"	As determined	\$3,551.82	\$3,889.24	\$4,258.72	\$4,663.30	\$5,106.31	
157	6"	As determined	\$5,683.13	\$6,223.03	\$6,814.22	\$7,461.57	\$8,170.42	
TBD	8"	As determined	\$8,170.37	\$8,946.56	\$9,796.48	\$10,727.15	\$11,746.23	
159	Unmetered Rate <i>(base rate + (annualized consumption x consumption rate/1,000))</i>		\$129.01	\$141.29	\$154.72	\$169.44	\$185.55	
Rate Code Monthly	OR Combined Fire Service (CFS) base rate by meter size		Water Connection Fee	Maximum Monthly Water Base Rate				
				2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
150 + 141	CFS - 3/4"		\$2,500 + \$1,200	\$143.97	\$157.64	\$172.62	\$189.02	\$206.97
150 + 131	CFS - 1"		\$3,000	\$156.44	\$171.30	\$187.58	\$205.40	\$224.91
151 + 137	CFS - 1.5"		\$6,000	\$252.76	\$276.78	\$303.07	\$331.86	\$363.39
151 + 132	CFS - 2"		\$9,600	\$277.69	\$304.07	\$332.95	\$364.58	\$399.22
As Determined	>2"		As determined	Service Classification Determined By District				

Private Fire Protection and / or Private Fire Hydrant Monthly BASE Rate Schedule (Only applies to customers with an approved private fire protection service or a private fire hydrant) (If applicable, add to standard base rate)							
Rate Code Monthly		Water Connection Fee	Maximum Monthly Water Base Rate				
			2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
131 - 141	Private Fire Protection ¹ (per inch diameter)	\$1,200	\$49.87	\$54.61	\$59.80	\$65.48	\$71.70
147 - 149	Private Fire Hydrant (per inch diameter)	As determined	\$49.87	\$54.61	\$59.80	\$65.48	\$71.70

¹ Add to Standard Base Rate where fire protection service provided by separate service line. Not to be added to Combined Fire Service Base Rate.

Water and Sewer Fees	Fees	Note
Residential–New Construction or REMODEL		
Permit and final inspection (Minor-Remodel)	\$60.00	
Plan check for remodel not involving sewer or water systems	No Charge	
Permit plan check and up to 4 site inspections for new construction or remodel involving sewer and/or water system involvement	\$175.00	
Additional inspections exceeding ordinance standard	\$41.00	Per inspection
Residential sewer pump system review	\$171.00	
Residential fire sprinkler system review	\$113.00	
Conditional Final - Minor construction incomplete	\$525.00	Deposit- Refunded upon completion of pending work.
Replacement or relocation of existing water service line	\$60.00	One site visit (trench/pressure)
Replacement or relocation of existing sewer service lateral	\$144.00	Up to three site visits
Seal Cap Deposit	\$525.00	
Commercial		
New Construction or Remodel		
Permit and final inspection (Minor-Remodel)	\$60.00	
Permit, development agreement, plan check and inspection	\$525.00	Deposit; billed at actual cost; including legal expense
Conditional Final – Minor construction incomplete	\$525.00	Deposit-Refunded upon completion of pending work
Customer Construction		
Development agreement, plan check and inspection for installation and or extension of water main	\$1,000.00	Deposit; billed at actual cost
Development agreement, plan check and inspection for installation and or extension of sewer collection system	\$1,000.00	Deposit; billed at actual cost
On-site inspection not related to permit or agreement	\$41.00	
Security bond for property owner performing own work	\$1,050.00	Refundable deposit
District Construction for Customer's Benefit		
Water service tap	\$5,000.00	Deposit; billed at actual cost
Fire sprinkler service tap	\$5,000.00	Deposit; billed at actual cost
Sewer stub install	\$5,000.00	Deposit; billed at actual cost
Food Service Wastewater Discharge Permit		
Permit for food service facility Monthly/Quarterly	\$ 33.03 / \$ 99.09	Monthly/Quarterly fee
Plan check – Grease interceptor or grease trap	\$60.00	Deposit; billed at actual cost
Inspection – Grease interceptor or grease trap	\$41.00	Per inspection
Temporary Discharge		
Permit	\$41.00	
Temporary discharge (\$0.98 per 1,000 gallons plus \$0.98 per 1,000 gallons per lift) includes swimming pool & spa drain	\$60.00	Deposit; billed at actual cost
Security deposit for damage to District facilities as a part of temporary discharge	\$475.00	Refundable if facilities not damaged
Fire Hydrant Use		
Permit	\$41.00	
Water use through hydrant meter	\$6.00 per day	300 gallons per day included in daily fee. Usage over 300 gallons per day billed at current commercial adopted rate per 1,000 gallons.
Security deposit for hydrant meter	\$925.00	Refundable deposit
Sewer Air Test – Time of Sale		
Processing fee and one site inspection	No Charge	
Repeat site visit	\$41.00	
Withhold in lieu of test: Processing fee	\$60.00	Additional charge if site visit required
Withhold in lieu of test: Site visit, if needed	\$41.00	

Water and Sewer Fees	Fees	Note
Disconnect water and/or Sewer Service - Cap Off PERMANENTLY		
Processing fee	\$24.00	
Inspection fee	\$41.00	Each site visit
Witness abandonment of septic tank	\$41.00	
Miscellaneous Services		
Water meter test for accuracy	\$60.00	Deposit; billed at actual cost. No charge if meter found to exceed 100% accuracy
Water sampling & testing, at customer's request	\$60.00	Deposit; billed at actual cost
Water service locate on private property	\$60.00	Minimum; billed at actual cost
Temporary shut-off of exposed water service	\$60.00	Minimum; billed at actual cost
Reconnect water service during regular business hours	\$60.00	Minimum; billed at actual cost
Reconnect water service after hours	\$87.00	Minimum; billed at actual cost
Sewer property line cleanout locate; cleanouts deeper than 18" below grade will not be exposed	\$117.00	Minimum; billed at actual cost
Cross-connection inspection, on-site	No charge	
District Labor and Equipment Expense		
District labor, overhead and vehicle expense	Actual cost	
Camera to televise sewer main	\$ 50.00 per hour	Equipment charge only; plus labor
Vactor	\$152.00 per hour	Equipment charge only; plus labor
Backhoe	\$46.00 per hour	Equipment charge only; plus labor
Emergency snow removal	Actual Cost	Minimum 1 hour
Easements		
Easement research, including, but not limited to, review and approval of easements; requests for easement abandonment and / or encroachment	\$60.00	Deposit; billed at actual cost
Easement encroachment agreement	\$525.00	Deposit; billed at actual cost
Administrative and Miscellaneous Fees		
Unreported connections	\$352.00	
Unreported discharges	\$352.00	
Unreported fire hydrant use - excluding Fire Department use	\$352.00	
Investigation of unauthorized activity, including, but not limited to discharges, sump pumps and removal or bypass of District- approved backflow prevention assembly	Actual Cost	Including administrative, field investigation and legal expenses
Ordinance violation disconnect and reconnect (including non-payment)	Actual Cost	
MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES AND FEES		
Process returned check	\$24.00	
Delinquent payment of charges for services provided	10.0% of balance 1.5% of balance	30 days after each quarterly billing 60 days after each quarterly billing
Process refund of fees paid for service where service request was cancelled; excludes refund of overpayment on deposits	\$24.00	
Process refund of balance on deposit for service performed	No charge	
Process refund of connection fee	\$87.00	
Process change in ownership	\$24.00	
Copies, letter or legal size, each	\$0.13	
Copies, blueprint (for plan review, only)	\$2.30	

NOTE: SNOW REMOVAL IS NOT INCLUDED WITH ANY SERVICE PROVIDED

DEPOSITS MAY BE REDUCED OR INCREASED DEPENDING UPON THE ACTUAL ESTIMATED COST