

## Grizzly Flats CSD Newsletter August 2024



*The mission of the Grizzly Flats Community Services District is to maintain the highest ethical standards for its Board members and employees while providing quality water in a fiscally responsible manner for the community of Grizzly Flats.*

### Update on the Rate Change

On April 13, 2024, our District held a public hearing which was attended by nine (9) community members. This was the last step of the Proposition 218 process to change our rate structure and adopt a five-year proposal of rate adjustments. Catherine Hansford of Hansford Economic Consulting LLC (HEC) made a brief power point presentation, which was followed by a public comment & question period. The public was provided a 59-day period to submit protests of the proposed rate structure. We received a total of twelve (12) protest letters. The end result of the meeting was the Board's unanimous adoption of the District's proposed rate change. If you are interested in any of the documents from this process; the public hearing presentation, the Water Rate Study done by HEC, the Prop 218 Notice and the Frequently Asked Questions mailer are all available on our website [www.grizzlyflatscsd.com](http://www.grizzlyflatscsd.com).

**You will see the new rates on your August 31, 2024 water statement** which will bill for water use between July 18<sup>th</sup> and mid-August (meters are read between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of each month). The new rate will be a base rate of \$87.53 plus a volumetric charge of \$3.87 per hundred cubic feet (748 gallons).

Along with this change in our rate structure, we approved a five-year plan of rate increases that are necessary to continue to cover our operating costs. The adopted plan increases the base rate and the volumetric rate for each of the next five years.

Each June, as part of the District's budget session, we will review the previous year's income and expenses, compare them to the financial projections and decide if any modifications can be made to the planned increase. The rates that were adopted are the maximum increase that can be adopted each year.

5 Year Rate Structure

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Base	\$ 87.53	\$ 89.42	\$ 91.52	\$ 94.27	\$ 97.11
Volumetric	\$ 3.87	\$ 3.97	\$ 4.07	\$ 4.21	\$ 4.35

The process to change the rate structure was a tough one and took many hours of work from our dedicated staff, Board members and volunteers! **A quick count of agenda postings found we held 12 public meetings since September 2023 to work on this, including committee meeting, public workshop, regular, and special board meetings.**

We would like to thank everyone who took time to participate in this process; the customers who took time to give us feedback and ask questions, the hard work from Hansford Economic Consulting LLC, the Cost of Services Committee (which consisted of two board members, 2 members of the public and the General Manager), the GFCSD staff and the Board of Directors! **Your time and commitment to our District is greatly appreciated!**

## **GFCSD WEBSITE FEATURES**

Have you ever visited the District's website [www.grizzlyflatscsd.com](http://www.grizzlyflatscsd.com)? It is maintained in-house by our administrative staff and is a wonderful resource for customers. Here is a brief sample of the information available online:

**Homepage** – News and events, meeting information, annual Consumer Confidence Report, and links to make online payments through ACI Payments or the Customer Web Portal (where you can set up auto-pay or view your current account balance.)

**Caldor Recovery** – Maps and schedules, water quality information and recovery status updates.

**The Board** – Information about our Board of Directors such as requirements for serving, election procedures and deadlines, and a list of the current directors with their terms.

**Agendas & Mins** – Annual meeting schedule, agendas, agenda packets, and minutes.

**Customer Info** – Newsletters, information for new customers or returning residents, lien filing policy, payment arrangement forms, Cost of Services Study information, Schedule of Charges, water conservation, and winterizing tips.

**Services** – Ordinances 88-1 & 88-2, audit reports, financial transaction report link, current budget, description of your water system, drought plan, a link to staff compensation information, and much more.

**Contact** – Hours of operation, staff member names, office and emergency contact information, and access to email staff directly through the website.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION**

This November, three of our Board seats are up for election. These are volunteer positions which require a commitment to attend monthly meetings as well as any special meetings that are scheduled.

Anyone who is interested in running for a seat on the Board will need to file with El Dorado County Elections Department between July 15<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup>. Filing with EDC will ensure your name is on the election ballot. **To serve on the Board, you must be a registered voter in our District and your primary home must be located within our District boundaries.** Contact our office today for more information at (530) 622-9626, or email Jessi Phillips at [gfcsdjessi@gmail.com](mailto:gfcsdjessi@gmail.com).

## **JOIN GFCSD ON FACEBOOK!**

Did you know that the Grizzly Flats Community Services District is on Facebook? Keeping up on District activities and information is easier than ever! Click on the following link, or search for “Grizzly Flats Community Services District” to like and follow our page: <https://www.facebook.com/Grizzly-Flats-Community-Services-District-289164634950282>

## **CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG!**

Whether you are a “Do-It-Yourself” homeowner planning a home-improvement project, or a contractor hired for a major remodel or rebuild, under federal law everyone must call 8-1-1 at least two working days before starting your project.

This is a free service for everyone. Taking a few moments to call before digging can save you potential neighborhood water service disruptions and outages, high repair costs, or serious injury! After you call, 811 contacts utilities that have underground lines (like GFCSD and PG&E) so we can come out and mark where **NOT** to dig so you don't damage any infrastructure.

In addition, customers who plan on installing a fence should keep in mind that GFCSD staff does not know where water lines are located on the customer side of the meter, **and your water meter box must always be accessible from the street!**

