

# BOLINAS COMMUNITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

BCPUD BOX 390 270 ELM ROAD BOLINAS CALIFORNIA 94924 415 868 1224



## NOTICE OF INTENT to Increase Water, Sewer and Septic-Drainage Service Charges in the Bolinas Service Area Starting on July 1, 2025

April XX, 2025,

Article XIII D, Section 6, of the California State Constitution requires that the Bolinas Community Public Utility District ("BCPUD") notify you of any proposed increases in BCPUD fees/charges for the parcel number shown on the address label used for this mailing (or for the new parcel number if your property has been consolidated or merged within the past 10 months).

At the end of this letter is a summary table of the *proposed* BCPUD budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year, which begins on July 1, 2025. **If the budget is adopted by the BCPUD Board of Directors at its June 18, 2025 regular meeting, with no further changes, increases in the annual charge for water service, sewer service and septic/drainage service will be necessary.** *The County of Marin collects BCPUD's Annual Service charges and levies a fee of \$2.00 for this service. Therefore, all BCPUD water customers will be charged an additional \$2.00 per parcel.*

**Proposed Increase to the Annual Water Service Charge.** The proposed *annual* increase in the service charge for water is \$187, which represents a ten percent (10%) increase over the existing charge. If approved, the annual service charge for water service will increase from \$1,866 per year to \$2,053 per year.

**Proposed Establishment of a Quarterly Water Service Fee.** The district does not currently charge a flat fee on quarterly water bills, therefore we propose to institute a service fee of \$5.00 per quarterly bill. If approved, the quarterly charge for water service will increase from \$0.00 per quarter to \$5.00 per quarter, in addition to the metered water delivery charges.

**Proposed Increase to the Quarterly Metered Water Delivery Charge.** The proposed increase for quarterly metered water delivery charge is 25% across all Usage Tiers:

| <i>Tier</i> | <i>Water Usage/ Quarter<br/>in Cubic Feet* (\$/cu ft)</i> | <i>Current Charge<br/>through 6/30/2025</i> | <i>Proposed Charge<br/>starting 7/1/2025</i> | <i>Absolute Value<br/>Increase</i> |
|-------------|---|---|--|------------------------------------|
| 1           | 100-1500** (\$1.00)                                       | \$1.00 - \$15.00                            | <b>\$1.25 - \$18.75</b>                      | \$0.25 - \$3.75                    |
| 2           | 1600-2100 (\$1.50)  | \$16.50 - \$24.00                           | <b>\$20.50 - \$30.00</b>                     | \$4.00 - \$6.00                    |
| 3           | 2200-2800 (\$3.00)  | \$27.00 - \$45.00                           | <b>\$33.75 - \$56.25</b>                     | \$6.75 - \$11.25                   |
| 4           | 2900-4000 (\$6.00)  | \$51.00 - \$117.00                          | <b>\$63.75 - \$146.25</b>                    | \$12.75 - \$29.25                  |
| 5           | 4100-6000 (\$10.00)                                       | \$127.00 - \$317.00                         | <b>\$158.75 - \$396.25</b>                   | \$31.75 - \$79.25                  |
| 6           | 6100-7500 (\$15.00)                                       | \$332.00 - \$542.00                         | <b>\$415.00 - 677.50</b>                     | \$83.00 - \$135.50                 |
| 7           | Over 7600 (\$18.00)                                       | \$560.00 and up                             | <b>\$700 and up</b>                          | \$140.00 and up                    |

\*1 cubic foot of water equals 7.48 gallons.

\*\*In 2024 85% of our customers were in Tier 1, 11% were in Tier 2, 3% in Tier 3, 1% in Tier 4 and 5, and less than 1% were in Tier 6 and 7.

**Proposed Increase to the Annual Sewer Service Charge.** The proposed *annual* increase in the service charge for sewer is \$185, which represents a ten percent (10%) increase over the existing service charge. If approved, the

annual service charge for residential sewer service will increase from \$1,847 per year to \$2,032 per year. The annual service charge for commercial sewer service will increase from \$1,872 - \$2,398 per year to \$2,057 - \$2,583 per year.

**Proposed Increase to the Annual Septic/Drainage Service Charge.** The proposed *annual* increase in the service charge for septic/drainage is \$45, which represents a one hundred and twenty nine percent (129%) increase over the existing service charge. If approved, the annual service charge for septic/drainage service on the Gridded Mesa will increase from \$35 per year to \$80 per year.

*Please note that the value of these proposed increases is subject to change during the budget process.*

The BCPUD has determined it is necessary to increase charges for water service, sewer service and septic/drainage service in order to continue to provide high quality services to our customers in accordance with all applicable regulatory requirements. These increases will enable the district to: (1) design, plan and install important capital improvement projects (2) repay its debts and (3) keep up with inflation, including but not limited to the soaring price increases charged by vendors and suppliers in recent years. The BCPUD Board of Directors is in the process of updating the district's Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan, a copy of which is available on the district's website ([www.bcpud.org](http://www.bcpud.org)), which sets forth the specific capital improvement projects planned across the district's enterprises for the upcoming fiscal year, as well as the four fiscal years thereafter. The Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan is updated annually, approved by the Board of Directors, and posted on the BCPUD's website.

**Reasons for the proposed increase in the annual water service charge and quarterly metered water delivery:**

One of the BCPUD's core missions is to provide safe and reliable drinking water to our water customers every day of the year. To do so, the BCPUD must operate, maintain and enhance its water system infrastructure. The proposed increase to water charges is needed to fund water system improvements, operations, maintenance and repair projects planned for implementation during the 2025-26 fiscal year and meet rising costs in all areas of BCPUD water operations as reflected in the draft budget included in this notice. In addition, the proposed increase to the annual water service charge is necessary to replenish reserves that have been depleted due to the repair of several costly leaks in our aging distribution system. Quarterly metered water delivery charges have not been increased since July 1, 2009. The proposed increase will enable the district to implement near and long term planned capital improvement projects, including but not limited to repair and rehabilitation of the Arroyo Hondo Access Road, the West Tank Rehabilitation Project, the completion of the district's emergency groundwater well projects, as well as supplement water reserves for future planned capital improvement projects. Finally, a new quarterly \$5.00 service fee is contemplated and necessary; currently, 35% of quarterly water bills are \$5.00 or less (with 8% of bills equal to \$0.00) and do not cover administrative costs.

**Reasons for the proposed increase in the annual sewer service charge:** Another of the BCPUD's core missions is to provide safe and reliable sewer service to our sewer customers every day of the year. To do so, the BCPUD must operate, maintain and enhance its sewer system infrastructure. The proposed increase to the annual service charge is needed to fund sewer system improvements, operations, maintenance and repair projects planned for implementation during the 2025-26 fiscal year and meet rising costs in all areas of BCPUD sewer operations as reflected in the draft budget included in this notice. In addition, the proposed increase to the annual sewer service charge is necessary to enable the district to implement near-term planned capital improvement projects, including but not limited to new manholes and the commencement of a five-year feasibility study for upgrades to the district's wastewater treatment plant (per regulatory requirements imposed by the Regional Water Quality Control Board), as well as supplement sewer reserves for future planned capital improvement projects.

**Reasons for the proposed increase in the annual septic/drainage charge:** A third mission of the BCPUD is to facilitate implementation of the "Todd Drainage Plan". (To learn more about the Todd Drainage Plan and the septic drainage program see <https://bcpud.org/community/drainage/> ). To promote optimal drainage across the Gridded Mesa, the maintenance of the dirt roads, ditches and culverts adjacent to properties on the Mesa is required. Proper management of the drainage network on the Gridded Mesa is intended to lower the water table and, ideally, improve

septic system function. (High water tables can impair septic system performance.) While the annual service charge for the Septic/Drainage program was \$140 in 2015-2016, it has been decreased in recent years; currently it is \$35. Today's funding levels are not sufficient to run the program. The proposed annual service charge for the 2025-2026 of \$80 is intended to begin the process of getting the program back to its original funding levels, so that BCPUD can better fulfill its responsibility to improve drainage on the Gridded Mesa. In addition, in the 2025-26 fiscal year we plan to purchase mobile equipment that will greatly facilitate this drainage work.

**Breakdown of Annual Increases by BCPUD Account Number:**

*Please check your account number on any recent water bill to determine which potential increases may affect your property.*

*Increase in Water Charges:*

**Accounts 10101000 through 30685010**

*Increase in Sewer Charges:*

**Accounts 10109000 and 10304030**

**Accounts 10131000 through 10296010**

*Increase in Septic/Drainage Charges:*

**Accounts 10101000 through 10130020 (except 10109000)**

**Accounts 10297000 through 30685010**

**There will be a public hearing on the draft budget and the proposed service charge increases at the June 18, 2025, regular meeting of the BCPUD Board of Directors. The meeting will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m., in the Fire House Meeting Room (100 Mesa Road Bolinas, CA 94924).** You may also attend by phone or via Zoom (the meeting link and phone number will be provided on the meeting agenda which will be published on June 13, 2025 and available on the district's website: [www.bcpud.org](http://www.bcpud.org). **Approval of the fiscal year 2025-26 budget is tentatively scheduled, after the public hearing item, at the June 18, 2025 regular meeting of the BCPUD Board of Directors,** following further public discussion at that meeting.

A copy of the draft budget is enclosed with this notice. It is also on the district's website at [www.bcpud.org](http://www.bcpud.org).

**Instruction for Filing a Formal Protest Prior to the Close of the Public Hearing**

You have the right to protest the proposed increase to rates and fees. The proposed rates cannot be adopted if written protests are received from a majority of affected parcels. Customers may file a written response, protesting the proposed maximum rate increases.

Pursuant to California law, protests must be submitted in writing and must:

- a) Identify the affected property or properties, such as by address, Assessor's Parcel Number, or customer account number;
- b) Include the name and signature of the property owner or customers submitting the protest; and
- c) Indicate opposition to the proposed waste, recycling, and organic rate increases.

Protests submitted by e-mail, facsimile or other electronic means are not considered valid written protests. Only one protest will be counted per parcel. Written protests can be mailed to: **BCPUD, P.O. Box 390, Bolinas, CA 94924**, or hand delivered to **270 Elm Rd. Bolinas, CA**. All protests must be submitted prior to the close of the Public Hearing on June 18, 2025. If you wish to protest the proposed rate increase during the public hearing, you will be asked to provide the information above in writing, and the District will document that information as a formal protest. For more information, please email [bcpud@bcpud.org](mailto:bcpud@bcpud.org) or call 415-868-1224.

|                                       |                        |                    |                  |                        |                          |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>FY 2025-2026</b>                   |                        |                    |                  |                        |                          |
| <b>SUMMARY BUDGET</b>                 | <b>ALL ENTERPRISES</b> | <b>Water</b>       | <b>Sewer</b>     | <b>Septic/Drainage</b> | <b>Resource Recovery</b> |
| Employee Costs                        | \$1,183,113            | \$923,256          | \$156,759        | \$21,513               | \$81,585                 |
| Maintenance Operations                | \$877,064              | \$553,325          | \$221,884        | \$35,318               | \$66,537                 |
| Contribution To Designated Funds/Debt | \$464,906              | \$324,947          | \$126,210        | \$3,289                | \$10,460                 |
| <b>TOTAL BALANCED EXPENDATURES</b>    | <b>\$2,525,083</b>     | <b>\$1,801,528</b> | <b>\$504,853</b> | <b>\$60,120</b>        | <b>\$158,582</b>         |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>                  | <b>\$2,525,083</b>     | <b>\$1,801,527</b> | <b>\$504,854</b> | <b>\$60,120</b>        | <b>\$158,582</b>         |
| <b>PLANNED RESERVE EXPENDATURES</b>   | <b>\$345,646</b>       | <b>\$193,269</b>   | <b>\$36,057</b>  | <b>\$116,320</b>       | <b>\$0</b>               |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDATURES</b>             | <b>\$2,870,729</b>     | <b>\$1,994,797</b> | <b>\$540,910</b> | <b>\$176,440</b>       | <b>\$158,582</b>         |

Go to XXX to view a more detailed breakdown of the draft budget for FY 2025-2026.