

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING  
PROPOSED WATER AND SANITARY SEWER RATE FEE INCREASES UNDER  
PROPOSITION 218  
June 25, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Middle School Gym  
Strathmore Union Elementary School District  
19840 Orange Belt Drive  
Strathmore, CA 93267**

The Strathmore Public Utility District (District) is a California public utility district which serves the majority of the unincorporated community of Strathmore located principally east of Highway 65 in Tulare County, California. The District was formed to provide sanitary sewer service and domestic water service and water for fire suppression services. The District maintains a water distribution system and a sanitary sewer collection system, in addition to water source facilities consisting of a well, a surface water treatment plant and a wastewater treatment and disposal facility. The water source facilities allow for service to the Sunnyside Elementary School and to Improvement District No. 1 of the Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District. The District employs a licensed operator to oversee the systems, including compliance with State mandated requirements. The District also employs an individual who performs required secretarial and bookkeeping tasks, including billings and utility collection services.

As a property owner or ratepayer within the District, you are receiving this notice in compliance with the Proposition 218 rules and procedures established under Article XIII(D) of the California Constitution and those additional procedures established under sections 53750 through 53753.5, and sections 53759, 53759.1 and 53759.2 of the Government Code of the State of California. Proposition 218 requires that all impacted property owners and ratepayers be mailed a notice of proposed rate changes at least forty-five (45) days prior to a public hearing. The District's Board of Directors has scheduled a public hearing, to be held on June 25, 2026, to consider and potentially approve proposed increases to water rates and sanitary sewer charges to become effective on July 1, 2026.

**NEED FOR A RATE INCREASE**

The District's last conducted Proposition 218 public hearing regarding rates was in 2006, with the maximum rates set at that hearing never having been put into place. The cost to operate and maintain the District and its utility systems has seen its annual budgets increase from \$ 1,250,309 in 2025-2026, to \$ 1,408,765 in 2026-2027. The District's proposed Fiscal Year 2030-2031 budgets are \$ 880,445 and \$ 604,605 for water and sewer, with prior increased costs leading to the reduction of District's reserves. The current rates are insufficient to cover the costs of service.

**PROPOSED RATES AND BASIS FOR CALCULATION**

Table 1 outlines the current and total proposed maximum water and sewer rates. The proposed domestic water and sewer rates shall not be imposed if protest forms submitted in opposition to the proposed water and sewer rate increases equal fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of the District’s ratepayers and property owners as shown on the most current water accounting system.

**TABLE 1. CURRENT VS. PROPOSED WATER AND SEWER RATES**

Budget	Supplemental Revenue Amount <u>FY 2026-2027</u> <u>FY 2030-2031</u>	Revenue Center Purpose	SFRUE (1)			
			Number	Proposed Increase Current <u>2030-2031</u>	Monthly Rate	
					Present	Proposed FY 2026-2027 FY 2030-2031
Water	<u>\$60,007</u> \$325,280	Offset increased operating costs and increases in state fees	633	<u>\$6.85</u> \$37.10	<u>\$48.15</u> \$0.47/1,000 gal	<u>\$55.00</u> <u>\$85.25 (2)</u> \$0.83/1,000 gal
Sewer	<u>\$120,055</u> \$120,055	Offset increased operating costs and increases in state fees	646	<u>\$14.49</u> \$14.49	\$24.35	<u>\$38.84</u> \$38.84

NOTES:

- (1) SFRUE – Single Family Residential Unit Equivalent.
- (2) Based on annual increases of \$7.56 per month.
- (3) Multi-family, commercial and industrial rates will increase by the same percentage as proposed for single-family rates.

The proposed rates are based on a cost-of-service study that allocates fixed and variable costs of providing water and sewer service to user classes in proportion to the cost of providing service to each parcel. Given that the last water rate increases were implemented in 2006, and given the magnitude of the increased costs experienced since then, the proposed water rate increases are phased over the next 5 years. For more information about the proposed water and sewer rates, please contact the District’s Secretary at (559) 568-1613 to view a copy of the District’s Water Rate Fee Study.

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE**

The proposed increases in the District’s water and sewer rates are governed by Section 6 of Article XIII D of the California Constitution, Government Code sections 53751 et seq. and 53759 et seq., and other applicable laws that together are commonly referred to as Proposition 218. There are multiple ways that property owners and ratepayers subject to the proposed water and sewer rates, as well as any other interested member of the public, may participate in the Proposition 218 process.

First, if you wish to learn more about the proposed rate changes, the Water Rate Fee Study Report, which includes proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budgets is available from the District office, and at [strathmorepubd.org](http://strathmorepubd.org).

Second, the District will hold a public hearing on June 25, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., to receive public feedback, including written protests, on the proposed rate increases.

Third, Proposition 218 is subject to a “majority protest” process where any property owner or ratepayer may submit one written protest per parcel to the proposed increases. Immediately following the close of the Public Hearing on June 25, 2026, all submitted protests will be counted and, if a majority of the parcels subject to the proposed rate increases have submitted valid protests, then the rate increases will not be levied and the District will continue to levy its current water and sewer rates. Additional details on submitting a protest are set forth below.

Fourth, parties that wish to preserve the ability to legally challenge the rate change must submit a timely written objection by 5:00 p.m. on June 24, 2026. This is known as Proposition 218’s exhaustion of administrative remedies requirement and is a separate legal requirement from the written protest. Prior to the Public Hearing on June 25, 2026, the District’s Board of Directors will consider and prepare written responses to written objections which have been properly submitted, prior to the close of the public hearing, and determine whether (1) amendments or clarifications are necessary; (2) to reduce the proposed new rate increases; or (3) to review further prior to making a determination; ~~or~~ (4) proceed with consideration of the rates are proposed. . Additional details on submitting a written objection are set forth below.

### **HOW TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED RATES**

Pursuant to Government Code section 53759.1, any person or entity that may wish to challenge any new, increased, or extended fee adopted, modified, or amended by the District pursuant to this Notice must first exhaust its administrative remedies. To exhaust administrative remedies, you must do the following:

- **Timely** submit a written objection (see below). Oral objections will not be considered. Written objection forms are available at [strathmorepubd.org](http://strathmorepubd.org) and will be mailed to any interested party upon request by contacting the District office at (559) 568-1613; and
- Timely submit, either by mail or via hand delivery, a completed written objection by 5:00 p.m. on June 24, 2026, to the District office at 19626 Orange Belt Drive, P.O. Box 425, Strathmore, CA 93267. Mailed objections must be received (not postmarked) by 5:00 p.m. on June 24, 2026. Failure to timely object in writing bars any right to challenge the fee through a legal proceeding.

Late-filed, noncompliant, or incomplete written objections will not be considered as satisfying the exhaustion of administrative remedies requirement. All substantive and procedural requirements for submitting a written objection are set forth in this Notice and the written objection form.

Pursuant to Government Code section 53759.1, subdivision (c)(2) the District has posted the written basis for the fees, including a copy of the District’s Water Rate Fee Study Report, at [strathmorepubd.org](http://strathmorepubd.org). Additionally, the written basis will be mailed to any person upon request by contacting the District office at (559) 568-1613.

### **HOW DO I FILE A PROTEST OR PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC HEARING?**

The provisions of Proposition 218 provide that certain types of “Property Related Fees”, such as these proposed rate increases are subject to a “majority protest” process. Under the majority protest process, any property owner or ratepayer may submit a written protest to the proposed increases; provided, however, that only one protest will be counted per identified parcel. If protests are filed on behalf of a majority of the parcels subject to the rates, the District cannot adopt the proposed rates. A sample protest form is available upon request by contacting the District office at (559) 568-1613, but property owners/ratepayers are not required to use the sample protest form.

#### **Every written protest MUST include ALL of the following to be counted:**

1. A statement against the proposed water and sewer rate increases;
2. Name of the recorded owner or ratepayer who is submitting the protest;
3. Identification of the assessor’s parcel number or street address (service address) of the parcel with respect to which the protest is made; and
4. An original signature and legibly printed name of the record owner or ratepayer who is submitting the protest.

Written protests may be submitted by:

1. Mail to: Prop 218 Protest, 19626 Orange Belt Drive, P.O. Box 425, Strathmore, CA 93267; or
2. In-person delivery during normal business hours to 19626 Orange Belt Drive, Strathmore, CA 93267; or
3. In-person at the Public Hearing, prior to the conclusion of the Public Hearing.

**Regardless of how the written protest is submitted, it must be received by the District prior to the conclusion of the public hearing portion of the Board Meeting to be held on June 25, 2026, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Middle School Gym – Strathmore Union Elementary School District, 19840 Orange Belt Drive, Strathmore, CA 93267.** (Postmark dates will not be accepted.) Any protest submitted via e-mail or other electronic means will not be accepted. Please identify on the front of the envelope for any written protest, whether mailed or submitted in person to the District, that the enclosed protest is for the Public Hearing on Water and Sewer Rate Adjustments. Oral comments at the Public Hearing will not qualify as formal protests unless accompanied by a written protest.

At the conclusion of the Public Hearing, protests will be publicly counted and validated. If protests are filed on behalf of a majority of the parcels subject to the proposed rates before the end of the Public Hearing, the District cannot adopt the proposed rates and the District will continue to levy its current water and sewer rates. If a majority of the parcels do not protest the proposed increase, the District has the authority to adopt the proposed rate increases. The first rate change, if approved, will go into effect on or after July 1, 2026.

**Please carefully review the following additional legal notice:**

**Pursuant to California Government Code section 53759, the proposed rate increases contemplated by this Notice are subject to a 120-day statute of limitations for challenging any new, increased or extended fee or charge the District may adopt.**