



P.O. Box 846 • Lindsay, CA 93247 • Phone: (559) 562-2581 • Fax: (559) 562-3882 • www.lsid.org

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING
PROPOSED WATER RATE FEE INCREASES UNDER PROPOSITION 218**

March 26, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

**Lindsay Wellness Center
860 North Sequoia Avenue
Lindsay, CA 93247**

The Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District (District) is a California irrigation district which encompasses approximately 15,309 acres, north, east and south of the City of Lindsay in Tulare County, California. The District holds a permanent contract (Contract No. I75r-1514D) with the United States Bureau of Reclamation, Central Valley Project – Friant Division for 27,500 acre-feet, which provides surface water delivered from the San Joaquin River, from Millerton Reservoir via the Friant-Kern Canal. The District’s pre-1914 right consists of 21.90143 shares of Wutchurna Water Company stock, which grants the District an entitlement of Kaweah River supply, which on average yields 12,681 acre-feet, annually. The District provides said surface water supplies to its landowners and customers via the District’s pipeline distribution system for non-treated domestic, treated domestic and irrigation water supply to 1,892 parcels.

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 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 will hold a public hearing on March 26, 2025, to consider and potentially approve the proposed volumetric irrigation and domestic water rate charges, beginning on April 1, 2025.

NEED FOR A RATE INCREASE

The District’s last conducted Proposition 218 public hearing regarding volumetric irrigation rates was in 2010, with the maximum rate set at that hearing being achieved in 2014. The last conducted Proposition 218 public hearing regarding volumetric domestic rates was in 2005. At the time of both of these rate increases, the District was not expensing several million dollars, annually, in capital replacement due to the District’s aging infrastructure. In addition to the capital replacement costs, the costs to operate and maintain the District and its’ distribution system has seen its annual budget increase from \$4,271,193 in 2005, to \$8,789,150 in 2023. The District’s proposed Fiscal Year 2025 budget is \$11,654,188, and includes two (2) million dollars for capital improvement/infrastructure replacement, which has been one of the main contributors to the depletion of the District’s unrestricted reserves over the last few years.

PROPOSED RATES

Table 1 outlines the current and total proposed maximum water rates, by classification and unit of measurement. The proposed volumetric irrigation and domestic water rates shall not be imposed if the protest forms submitted in opposition to the proposed volumetric irrigation and domestic water rates 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 Irrigation and Domestic Rates

Classification	Current Rates	Total Proposed Maximum Rate
<i>Irrigation – Main Zone</i>		
Acre-Foot	\$ 112.50	\$ 229.01
Thousand Cubic-Foot	\$ 2.58	\$ 5.26
<i>Irrigation – High Level Zone</i>		
Acre-Foot	\$ 115.50	\$ 261.59
Thousand Cubic-Foot	\$ 2.65	\$ 6.01
<i>Irrigation – El Mirador Zone</i>		
Acre-Foot	\$ 139.50	\$ 300.09
Thousand Cubic-Foot	\$ 3.20	\$ 6.89
<i>Non-Treated Domestic – Main Zone</i>		
Acre-Foot	\$ 234.00	\$ 457.35
Cubic-Foot	\$0.00537	\$ 0.01050
<i>Non-Treated Domestic – High-Level Zone</i>		
Acre-Foot	\$ 252.00	\$ 489.93
Cubic-Foot	\$0.00579	\$ 0.01124
<i>Non-Treated Domestic – El Mirador Zone</i>		
Acre-Foot	\$ 279.00	\$ 528.43
Cubic-Foot	\$0.00641	\$ 0.01213
<i>Treated Domestic – ID1</i>		
Acre-Foot	\$ 467.00	\$1,621.93
Cubic-Foot	\$0.01072	\$ 0.03723
<i>Treated Domestic - Tonyville</i>		
Acre-Foot	\$ 252.00	\$1,621.93
Cubic-Foot	\$0.00579	\$ 0.03723

For more information about the proposed irrigation, non-treated domestic and treated domestic water rates, please visit the District’s website at <https://lsid.org/> to view a copy of the District’s Water Rate Fee Study or contact the District’s General Manager at (559) 562-2581.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

The proposed increases in the District's irrigation, non-treated domestic and treated domestic water 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 irrigation, non-treated domestic and treated domestic water 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 the proposed Fiscal Year 2025 budget is available at <https://lsid.org/resources/notices/>.

Second, the District will hold a public hearing on March 26, 2025, at 1:30 p.m., to receive public feedback, including written protests, on the proposed rates.

Third, Proposition 218 is subject to a "majority protest" process where any property owner or ratepayer may submit one written protest per parcel of the proposed increase. Immediately following the close of the public hearing on March 26, 2025, 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 rates will not be levied and the District will continue to levy its current water 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 March 20, 2025. 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 March 26, 2025, the District's Board of Directors will review written objections and determine whether (1) amendments or clarifications are necessary; (2) to reduce the proposed new rates; (3) to review further prior to making a determination; or (4) to proceed with the public hearing. 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:

- Obtain written objection form and complete all portions of the form. Oral objections will not be considered. Written objection forms are available at <https://lsid.org/resources/notices/> and will be mailed to any interested party upon request by contacting the District office at (559) 562-2581; and
- Timely submit, either by mail or via hand delivery, the completed written objection by 5:00 p.m. on March 20, 2025, to the District office at 23260 Round Valley Drive, Lindsay, CA 93247. Mailed objection forms must be received (not postmarked) by

5:00 p.m. on March 20, 2025. 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 at <https://lsid.org/resources/notices/> the written basis for the fee, including a copy of the District's Water Rate Fee Study Report. Additionally, the written basis will be mailed to any person upon request by contacting the District office at (559) 562-2581.

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 rates are subject to a "majority protest" process. Under the majority protest process, any property owner or ratepayer may submit a written protest of 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 provided at <https://lsid.org/resources/notices/> and is available upon request by contacting the District office at (559) 562-2581, 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 rates;
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, P.O. Box 846, Lindsay, CA 93247; or
2. In-person delivery during normal business hours to 23260 Round Valley Drive, Lindsay, CA 93247; 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 March 26, 2025, beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the Lindsay Wellness Center, 860 North Sequoia Avenue, Lindsay, CA 93247. (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 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 rates. If a majority of the parcels do not protest the proposed increase, the District has the authority to adopt the proposed rates. The first rate change, if approved, will go into effect on or after April 1, 2025.

Please carefully review the following additional legal notice:

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