

**FY 2022/2023
Notice of Proposed
Surface Water Charges**

If you object to the proposed rates described in this notice, you may file a written protest with Valley Water (Santa Clara Valley Water District) before the conclusion of the virtual public hearing, scheduled for April 26, 2022, either in person or by mail. Additional details about the protest procedure are provided in the insert.

For more information please contact:

Visit our website at valleywater.org to use our **Access Valley Water** online customer service center.



如果您对此文件有任何疑问, 请联系
Translations@valleywater.org。



Dear Surface Water User,

As Santa Clara County's primary water resources agency, Valley Water works to ensure there is enough safe, clean water to sustain the region's economy and quality of life. Santa Clara County is currently in a drought emergency. While we don't know if this drought will last several years like the historic drought from 2012-2016, we must be prepared. Developing and managing drought-resilient water supplies, like increasing our use of recycled water and supporting water storage projects like the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project, are necessary as climate change brings the possibility of more prolonged and severe droughts.

The rate-setting process includes a series of opportunities for the public to provide input at an open house and public hearings in April. The details of these meetings are listed in the [Important Dates](#) section of this notice. The rate-setting process also includes a formal protest procedure where surface water users can object to the proposed increase in rates, which is explained in greater detail on the [About the protest procedure](#) insert.

Sincerely,

Aaron Bahr

Aaron Baker, P.E.
Chief Operating Officer
Water Utility Enterprise

April 12, 2022

1 p.m. Public Hearing
Zoom
meeting: <https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/87195766689>
Meeting ID: 871 9576 6689
Dial-in: 1-669-900-9128

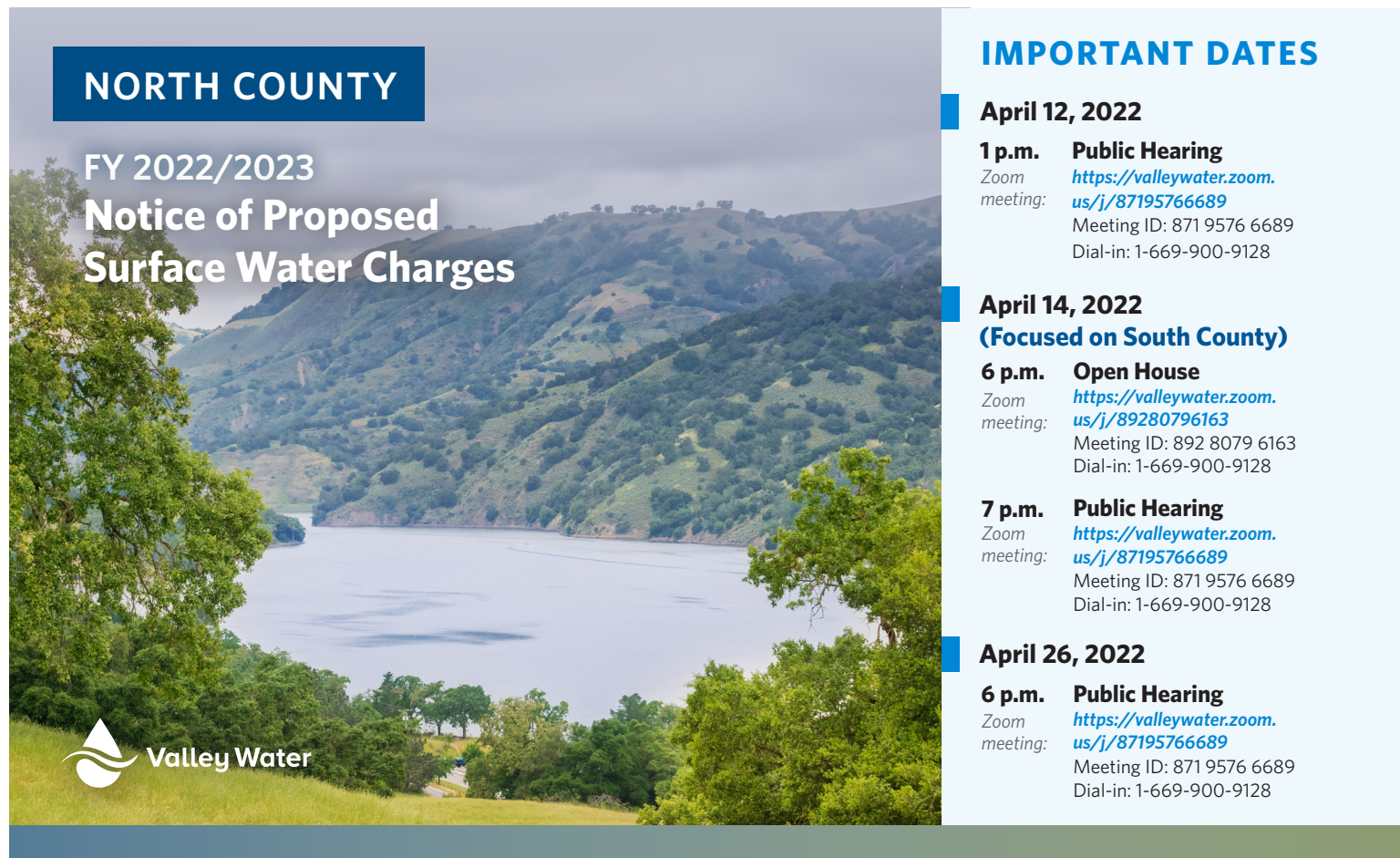
April 14, 2022
(Focused on South County)

6 p.m. Open House
Zoom
meeting: <https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/89280796163>
Meeting ID: 892 8079 6163
Dial-in: 1-669-900-9128

7 p.m. Public Hearing
Zoom <https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/87195766689>
meeting: Meeting ID: 871 9576 6689
Dial-in: 1-669-900-9128

April 26, 2022

6 p.m. Public Hearing
Zoom
meeting: <https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/87195766689>
Meeting ID: 871 9576 6689
Dial-in: 1-669-900-9128



NORTH COUNTY SURFACE WATER

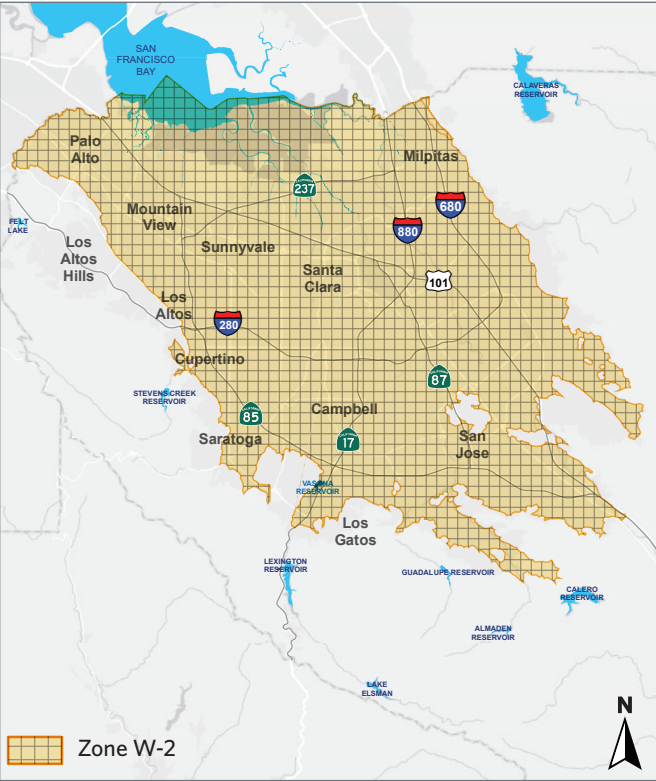
How will rates change?

	Zone	Municipal and Industrial (M&I) (\$/acre-foot)		Agricultural (\$/acre-foot)
2021/2022 Current charges	Zone W-2	Basic user	\$1,499.00	\$34.15
		Master charge	\$40.90	\$40.90
		Total	\$1,539.90	\$75.05
2022/2023 Proposed charges Effective July 1, 2022	Zone W-2	Basic user	\$1,724.00	\$36.85
		Master charge	\$47.10	\$47.10
		Total	\$1,771.10	\$83.95

North County (Zone W-2) is generally defined as the portion of Santa Clara County north of the Coyote Valley. More information can be found online at valleywater.org/gwbenefits.

The basic user charge is based on the closest groundwater zone.

One acre-foot = 325,851 gallons



What do the proposed rates mean?

In FY 2022/2023 the Municipal and Industrial (M&I) proposed rate increases are up to 15% in Zone W-2. The maximum proposed Agricultural rate is at 10% of the lowest proposed M&I rate based on direction from the Valley Water Board (10% x \$368.50 in Zone W-8 = \$36.85). More information on proposed water production charges can be found online at valleywater.org/ProposedWaterCharges.

Protest Procedure

If you object to the proposed rates described in this notice, you may file a written protest with Valley Water before the conclusion of the public hearing, scheduled for April 26, 2022, either in person or by mail. Additional details about the protest procedure are provided in the insert.

A valid protest should:

- 1 Be signed with your original signature.
- 2 Be sealed in an envelope which conceals the contents.
- 3 Include the return address and the APN (Assessor's Parcel Number) or surface water account number written on the outside of the envelope.
- 4 Be submitted before the close of the public hearing on April 26, 2022.

If written protests of a proposed rate increase are filed for a majority of either, a) the affected properties within a charge zone, or b) the identified number of owners and operators within a charge zone, then the proposed rate increases will not be imposed in that charge zone. Protests can be mailed or personally delivered to: Santa Clara Valley Water District, Clerk of the Board, 5750 Almaden Expressway, San José, CA 95118

NORTH COUNTY SURFACE WATER

Why is my rate changing?

As infrastructure ages, it must be replaced to ensure safety, quality, reliability and capacity. Water supply strategies must also evolve to meet future demand, especially as we contend with the impacts of climate change.

The need to purchase emergency imported water is now even greater due in part to the latest dry winter conditions and an order to lower water levels at Anderson Reservoir. The reservoir is the county's largest surface water supply source, and last year Valley Water began preparing for 10 years' worth of work to rebuild the dam and reservoir. Valley Water must plan ahead in order to supply water to our community.

Rates provide revenue vital to ensuring we have future capacity for water, as well as drought-resilient water supplies for Santa Clara County.

ENSURING A RELIABLE WATER SUPPLY

Valley Water is dedicated to ensuring a reliable water supply through investments in its infrastructure. Valley Water plans to invest \$1.15 billion countywide over the next ten years to evaluate and seismically retrofit our dams, including Anderson Dam, a key water storage resource for Santa Clara County. In addition, these investments include \$10.4 million for the Almaden Valley Pipeline Inspection and Line Valve Project. This project will increase this critical pipeline's reliability and useful life. For further details, please visit: valleywater.org/project-updates/dam-reservoir-projects and valleywater.org/project-updates/infrastructure-improvement-projects.

UPGRADES CONTINUE AT THE RINCONADA WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Valley Water has restored the treatment plant's roads impacted by previous construction. Extensive paving, grading and excavating have been done and slope surfaces have been improved to prevent erosion and keep soil and debris from seeping into residential properties and the nearby Smith Creek. An outdated corrosion protection well was also replaced to prevent leaks and failures. Valley Water is improving how the plant deals with sludge from the water treatment process, a project scheduled to conclude in spring 2023.

More significant construction is coming up to ensure the Rinconada plant remains a reliable source of drinking water to residents in western Santa Clara County. When the work is completed, the plant will treat more water than ever, from the current 80 million gallons daily to 100 million gallons daily.



Anderson Dam



Rinconada Water Treatment Plant

Valley Water Activities

Infrastructure upgrading and maintenance activities are supported by water rates. They include:



Planning, constructing and retrofitting infrastructure such as dams, drinking water treatment plants, pipelines, groundwater recharge ponds, and pump stations to help sustain the groundwater basins.



Monitoring and protecting groundwater from pollutants.



Operating and maintaining local reservoirs to capture water and fill recharge ponds, replenishing the groundwater basins.



Operating and maintaining pipelines, groundwater recharge ponds and pumping plants to sustain groundwater supplies.



Ensuring proper construction and destruction of wells to help prevent contaminants from reaching groundwater resources.



Purchasing imported water and developing drought resilient local water supplies to replenish the groundwater basins.