



City of Riverside

City Council/Board of Public Utilities

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on October 15, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard, the City of Riverside's City Council and the Board of Public Utilities will hold a joint public hearing/special meeting at the Riverside County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, First Floor Board Chambers, Riverside, CA to consider the proposed WA-12 Agricultural Service water rate. At the time of the public hearing, the City Council and the Board of Public Utilities will hear and consider all written protests and objections to the proposed WA-12 Agricultural Service water rate and consider whether to adopt such rate. Further details regarding the proposed rate are available at the City Hall One Stop Shop, 3rd Floor, 3900 Main Street, Riverside, California or at the Riverside City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 7th Floor, 3900 Main Street, Riverside, and may be reviewed there by any interested person. The proposed rate is also available on the Public Utilities website: RiversidePublicUtilities.com/about-rpu/board-public-hearings.asp.

PROTEST OF PROPOSED RATE ACTION

To protest the adoption of the proposed WA-12 Agricultural Service water rate, written protests must be received by the City Clerk by or before the close of the public hearing. Written protests may be submitted via mail or hand-delivered to the Riverside City Clerk at City Hall, 3900 Main Street, Riverside, California, 92522. Protests will also be accepted via electronic mail (e-mail) at city_clerk@riversideca.gov. Each protest must identify the utility services address for the affected property (by assessor's parcel number or street address), indicate that the protest is related to proposed WA-12 Agricultural Service water rate and include the name of the person submitting. Each utility services address may submit no more than one written protest. Protests received by telephone or on social media sites such as Facebook or Twitter will NOT be accepted. All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and present written protests or oral comments to the proposed WA-12 Agricultural Service water rate. However, oral comments at the public hearing will not qualify as a formal protest of the proposed water rate increases unless accompanied by a written protest setting forth the required information. If written protests are received from a majority of the affected parcels, the proposed rate increases will not be implemented.

EN ESPAÑOL: Para recibir una copia de este anuncio en español, por favor llámenos al 951-782-0330.

QUESTIONS REGARDING PROPOSED RATE ACTION

If you have any questions regarding the proposed WA-12 Agricultural Service water rate, or have questions on how to submit a written protest, please contact Riverside Customer Service at 951-782-0330. If requested, this Notice and supporting materials will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Section 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof.

WA-12 Agricultural Water Service

The City Council recommended the establishment of an Agricultural Water Rates Task Force (Task Force) to provide rate alternative recommendations for the existing WA-3 Irrigation Metered Service (WA-3) and WA-9 Grove Preservation Service (WA-9) water rates.

The existing WA-3 and WA-9 water rate schedules apply to qualifying properties that meet the agricultural requirements of each rate. The WA-3 rate schedule has been closed to new customers since May 31, 2003, and WA-9 has been available to qualifying customers since that time. The proposed WA-12 Agricultural Service water rate is designed to allocate an appropriate amount of water based on the efficient irrigation of the qualifying agricultural crops being grown. The proposed WA-12 Agricultural Service water rate establishes both specific qualifying criteria and qualifying agriculture requirements for properties, and allocates a specific volume of water to meet the needs of the actual planted areas. In summary, a water budget allocation (called the Agricultural Water Allocation) will be developed for each customer to serve the agricultural uses on the property. All other water use on the property will be billed using the same tier allocations, rates, and criteria as other Riverside Public Utility (RPU) customers.

Agricultural Water Allocation Formula

The Agricultural Water Allocation is calculated by using a formula that considers: (1) Riverside's climate reference evapotranspiration (ET_o), (2) the needs of various groupings of crops (K_c), and (3) the irrigated area (IA) as the planted area of qualifying agriculture. The detailed methodology for calculating the Agricultural Water Allocation is set forth in the Agricultural Water Allocation Formula. The calculation includes a conversion factor of 36.3 to convert from inches/month to hundred cubic feet (CCF) per month.

$$AWA = ET_o \times K_c \times IA \times 36.3$$

The City Council and Board of Public Utilities will also consider adding a .85 irrigation efficiency factor as part of the Agricultural Water Allocation Formula. Customers who also receive water from the Gage Canal Company shall have that amount of water reduced from their allocation, based upon actual Gage water received.

The tier structures differ if a residence is located on the property.

WA-12 (without residence)

Tier 1 – Agricultural Water Allocation	Calculated based on ETo, Kc, IA factors
Tier 2 – All CCF usage > Tier 1	Charged equivalent to WA-6

WA-12 (with residence)

Tier 1 – 0 to 9 CCF	Charged equivalent to WA-1A Tier 1
Tier 2 – Agricultural Water Allocation	Calculated based on ETo, Kc, IA factors
Tier 3 – up to next 26 CCF > (Tier 1 + Tier 2)	Charged equivalent to WA-1A Tier 2
Tier 4 – All CCF usage > (Tier 1 + Tier 2 + Tier 3)	Charged equivalent to WA-1A Tier 3

The monthly Customer Charge is equal to the WA-1A monthly Customer Charge by meter size.

The four Kc factors used in the Agricultural Water Allocation calculation were developed for the crop groupings shown below.

Crop Factor (Kc)	Crop Grouping
0.45	Immature trees (first 5 planted years)
0.53	Grape vines and row crops
0.69	Citrus, avocado, fruit/nut trees, nursery stock
0.89	Pasture with qualifying livestock

Estimated bill impacts will vary by customer based on each customer’s Agricultural Water Allocation. (Water usage is measured in 100 cubic feet (CCF) units. One CCF equals 748 gallons.)

Prop 218 and New Customer Program Limit

California Proposition 218 requires that only costs necessary to provide service be included in water rates. To comply with Prop 218, RPU has been offsetting the undercollection of existing WA-3 and WA-9 customers with non-rate revenue. All other non-rate revenue was allocated to the other customer classes to reduce rate increases. Any undercollection of costs under the proposed WA-12 Agricultural Service water rate will be offset with the same amount of non-rate revenue as the WA-3 and WA-9 customers were allocated in the 2018 water utility rate plan approved by the City Council. No additional non-rate revenue is proposed to be used.

All WA-3 and WA-9 customers will transition to the proposed WA-12 Agricultural Service rate, but must meet the requirements of the new rate. If those existing customer(s) do not meet the requirements of the proposed WA-12 Agricultural Service rate, that customer will be transitioned to their appropriate water rate. The new rate will also be open to existing Riverside Public Utilities and new customers.

The proposed WA-12 Agricultural Service water rate will be closed to additional customers when the City determines that the undercollection of costs to serve all WA-12 Agricultural Service water rate customers reaches \$684,000, and will only be reopened to new customers when additional non-rate revenues are identified and approved by the Board of Public Utilities and City Council.

WA-9 Grove Preservation Service Closure and Transition of WA-3 and WA-9 Customers

The WA-9 Grove Preservation Service water rate will be closed to new customers immediately upon approval of the proposed WA-12 Agricultural Service water rate. Effective January 1, 2020, existing WA-3 and WA-9 customers will be transitioned either to the WA-12 Agricultural Service water rate or another appropriate water rate. Such existing customers are encouraged to call Riverside Customer Service at 951-782-0330 for further information as to the transitional process.

How to save on your water bill?

Riverside Public Utilities offers many residential and commercial rebate programs designed to help you save money by conserving water. Learn more about our assistance programs water upgrades by visiting our website at www.RiversidePublicUtilities.com/Rebates.