



53823 Sherritt Lane  
Post Office Box 610  
Soda Springs, CA 95728

**Public Hearing to Adopt Proposed New  
Water and Wastewater Rates Tuesday,  
May 19th at 6 p.m.**

**Learn More! Attend a Public Workshop  
on Saturday, April 18th at 10 a.m.**

**Details Inside!**

## **Attend a Public Workshop!**

The District values input from its customers. Customers are encouraged to attend a public workshop to learn more about the proposed water and wastewater rate increases and provide comments.

April 18, 2026 at 10 a.m.  
Sugar Bowl Main Lodge, Coldstream Room  
629 Sugar Bowl Road  
Norden, CA 95724

For more information about proposed rate increases and to view the Water and Wastewater Rate Study, go to [www.DSPUD.org](http://www.DSPUD.org).





# Notice of Proposed Rate Increase and Public Hearing Date Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 6 p.m.

Donner Summit Public Utility District, 53823 Sherritt Lane, Soda Springs, CA

## Notice of Proposed Water and Wastewater Rate Increases

Donner Summit Public Utility District (District) has completed a rate study for both water and wastewater utilities. The draft rate study and proposed rate increases were presented at the March 17, 2026 District Board of Directors meeting. The Board voted to move forward with the process for adopting the proposed rate increase and set a public hearing for May 19, 2026 at 6 p.m. to consider the rate adoption for water and sewer rates.

## About Donner Summit Public Utility District

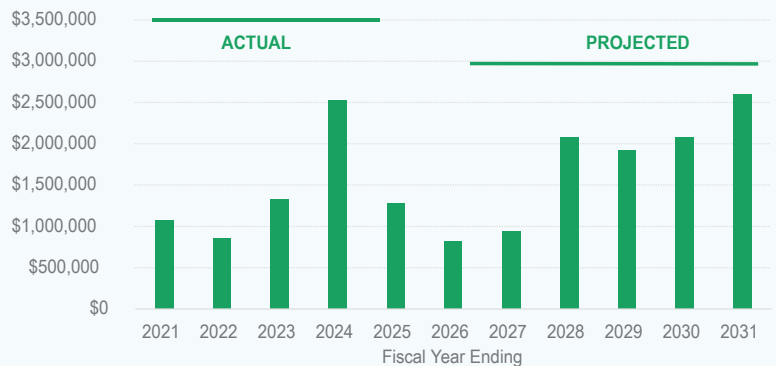
The District provides water and wastewater services to Norden and Soda Springs communities, Sugar Bowl, Soda Springs, Boreal and Donner Ski Ranch ski resorts, and Caltrans rest areas. The District also provides wastewater treatment and disposal services to Sierra Lakes County Water District (SLCWD) and operates a standalone water system for the Big Bend community.

## Why Increase Rates?

The District last completed a water and wastewater rate study in 2021 which set a rate schedule through Fiscal Year 2026. In the last few months, the District has completed a new rate study to establish rates through Fiscal Year 2031. The rate study shows that the District's combined water and wastewater funds will not have enough revenue to cover expenses within the next two years without rate increases. Rate increases are needed over the next five years to:

- Maintain major infrastructure to be compliant with state and federal health and safety standards.
- Keep pace with costs of goods and services, and to adjust for inflation.
- Meet all debt obligations for existing District loans.
- Show financial health to secure additional loans for needed capital improvement projects.
- Restore cash reserves to a prudent level, per industry best practices.

## Historical and Projected Cash Balance



## Revenue Sources

The District receives most of its revenue (70%) from customer wastewater fees and fees received from SLCWD. Customer water fees, including Big Bend water-only customers, make up 17% of revenue and property taxes contribute 12% of revenue. In some years, the District may secure grants to conduct studies.

## Necessary Capital Improvements

As a utility provider, the District must meet stringent Statewide drinking water quality standards and required State-permitted wastewater quality standards for discharge to the Yuba River, regardless of the District's size or number of customers served.

The water system (not including Big Bend) has about \$1.9 million in infrastructure improvements planned over the next five fiscal years (2027-2031) and another \$3.23 million between fiscal years 2032-2036. These planned improvements include only critical projects for the next five years including upgrades to decrease system backwashing, coating Reservoir 1, external coating Reservoir 2, and pump station rehabilitation at Boreal.

The wastewater system has about \$1.44 million in infrastructure improvements planned over the next five fiscal years and \$2.28 million over the following five fiscal years. Planned capital improvement program (CIP) projects through 2031 are critical projects including upgrades to the collection system, upgrades to lift stations, coating Reactor 1 and critical wastewater infrastructure repairs and replacement.

The District will not be able to fund the combined total of \$3,348,000 water and wastewater capital improvement projects over the next five years through customer rates, property taxes, and reserves. The financing strategy includes obtaining about 72% (\$2,411,000) through competitive low interest loans.

## Current and Projected Main System Water Rates – Soda Springs and Sugar Bowl Customers

DSPUD collects money through flat rates by meter size and usage fees for water service. The last water rate adjustment was adopted in 2021. The chart shows the current and projected water rates for Main System customers. The most significant rate change is increasing rates proportionally for those with larger water meters, per industry standards, as larger meters allow greater delivery of water.

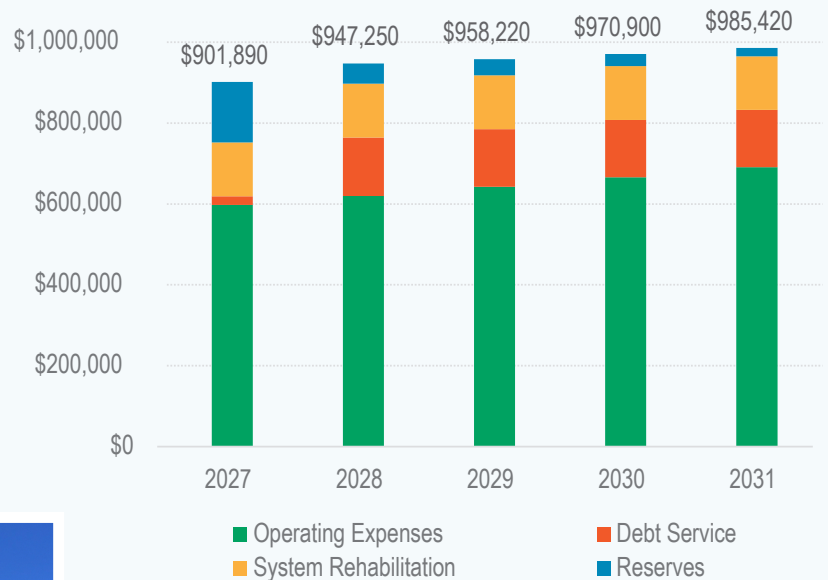
### Calculated Water Rates Next Five Years

Meter Size	Calculated WATER Rates Next Five Years					
	Current	7/1/2026	7/1/2027	7/1/2028	7/1/2029	7/1/2030
	<b>Monthly Fee</b>					
3/4"	\$117.65	\$127.05	\$137.26	\$148.30	\$157.98	\$168.30
1"	\$217.66	\$211.74	\$228.77	\$247.17	\$263.31	\$280.50
1.5"	\$294.12	\$423.49	\$457.54	\$494.34	\$526.61	\$561.00
2"	\$470.60	\$677.58	\$732.07	\$790.94	\$842.58	\$897.60
3"	\$764.72	\$1,355.17	\$1,464.13	\$1,581.88	\$1,685.16	\$1,795.20
4"	\$2,058.90	\$2,117.45	\$2,287.71	\$2,471.69	\$2,633.06	\$2,805.01
6"	\$3,082.45	\$4,234.89	\$4,575.42	\$4,943.38	\$5,266.13	\$5,610.01
	<b>per thousand gallons</b>					
Overage & Temporary	\$11.765	\$12.705	\$13.726	\$14.830	\$15.798	\$16.830

Source: HEC 2026 rate study.

NOTE: Big Bend Water system rates remain the same as adopted in 2019 with the last increase in 2024.

### Components of Water Revenue Requirements



## Calculated Wastewater Rates Next Five Years

Rates by Customer	Current	Calculated WASTEWATER Rates Next 5 Years				
		7/1/2026	7/1/2027	7/1/2028	7/1/2029	7/1/2030
<b>Existing Customers</b>						
		<b>Monthly Fee per EDU</b>				
Inside CFD No. 1	\$190.75	\$202.86	\$215.53	\$228.83	\$240.06	\$251.63
Outside CFD No. 1	\$240.16	\$252.28	\$264.95	\$278.25	\$289.48	\$301.05
CalTrans	\$178.22	\$192.18	\$204.86	\$218.16	\$229.38	\$240.96
<b>Future Customers</b>						
Inside CFD No. 1	\$101.64	\$106.77	\$113.10	\$119.75	\$125.37	\$131.15
Outside CFD No. 1	\$151.05	\$156.18	\$162.52	\$169.17	\$174.79	\$180.57
		<b>Special Taxes per EDU</b>				
Inside CFD No. 1 - All EDUs	\$49.42	\$49.42	\$49.42	\$49.42	\$49.42	\$49.42

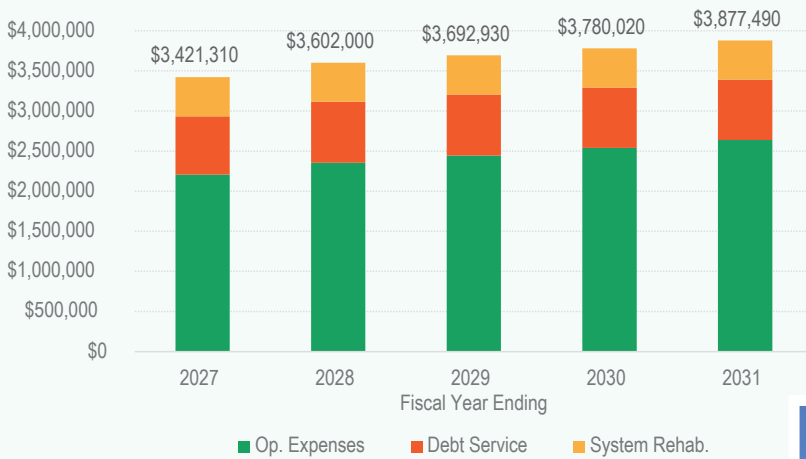
Source: HEC 2026 rate study.

**About CFD No. 1** - In 2015, the District formed Community Facilities District (CFD) No. 1 with three service areas to approve or disapprove a new special tax to pay for the wastewater treatment plant (WTP) upgrade and expansion. Two areas voted in favor of the tax and one did not. Those **within CFD No. 1** pay a special tax per EDU while those **outside CFD No. 1** pay their share of the WTP upgrade and expansion through higher monthly fees per EDU.

## Current and Projected Wastewater Rates

DSPUD charges customers a monthly rate based on Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs), which is an industry standard measurement for calculating wastewater rates. There is no proposed change to how the rates are calculated. The chart illustrates the current and proposed wastewater rates.

## Components of Wastewater Revenue Requirements

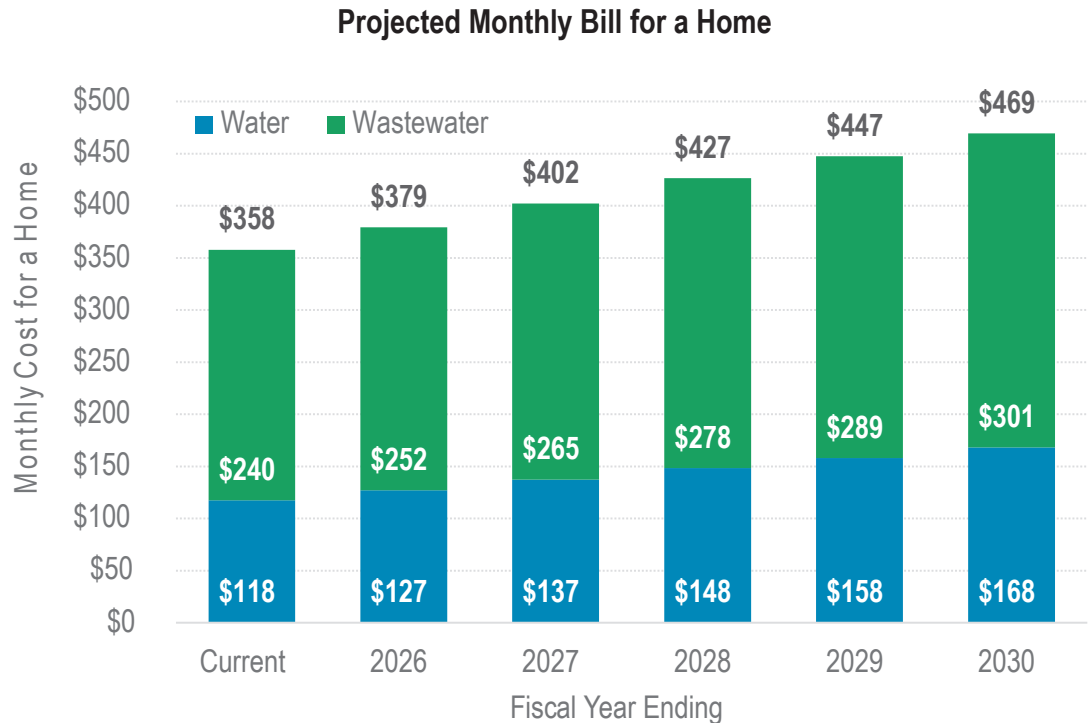


Wastewater



## Combined Utility Bill Impact

District residents receive quarterly utility bills that include charges for water and wastewater services. The combined monthly impact of rate increases for both water and wastewater services for a typical home using less than 10,000 gallons per month is shown to the right.



# Combined

## Public Hearing and Customer Rights – Submit a Written Protest

Under Proposition 218, ratepayers and property owners have the right to oppose the proposed rate increases for water, wastewater or both services.

**Option 1 – No opposition to the rate increases.** If you do not oppose either or both rate increases, no action is necessary.

**Option 2 – You oppose the rate increases.** If you oppose the proposed rate increases, your protest must be submitted in writing even if you attend the Public Hearing. Mail written protests to PO Box 610, Soda Springs, CA 95728 prior to the Public Hearing on **Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 6 p.m. located at the Donner Summit Public Utility District, 53823 Sherritt Lane, Soda Springs, CA.** You may also hand deliver protests to the physical 53823 Sherritt Lane address during business hours Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Written protests may also be submitted in person at the Public Hearing prior to the close of the Public Hearing. Emails, phone calls or other forms of protest will not be accepted.

All protests must contain:

- Statement that the proposed water, wastewater or both rate increases are being protested,
- name of the property owner OR customer of record who is submitting the protest,

- parcel number OR street address,
- original signature and legibly printed name of the property owner of record or tenant,
- indicate if signature is of property owner or tenant, and
- date of signature.

After the public hearing is concluded, the Board of Directors will consider adopting the proposed rate increases. If, at the close of the Public Hearing, complete written protests are submitted by the record owners for the majority of the parcels served by the District (50% plus one, a “majority protest”), the Board of Directors cannot approve the proposed rate increases. If, at the close of the Public Hearing a majority protest does not exist for the proposed rate increases, the Board of Directors may impose rates up to the maximum amounts proposed.

Only one written protest per parcel will be counted (either owner or tenant, not both). Written protests received after the close of the Public Hearing will not be counted. Protests emailed or submitted by any electronic means will not be accepted.

*Pursuant to Government Code Section 53759(d), there is a 120-day statute of limitation for ratepayers to challenge increased water or wastewater rates. Any challenge must be filed within 120 days of the effective date or date of final passage, adoption, or approval of the ordinance or resolution adopting the water or wastewater rates.*