



PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: June 6, 2019

Douglas County Proposes to Change the Water Rates and Fees for All Douglas County Water Customers and Will Hold Public Hearings to Consider the Same.

Minden-Nev. –On May 16, 2019 the Board of County Commissioners directed staff to bring forward a water utility rate resolution pursuant to NRS 318.199. The Board specifically directed staff to incorporate a water utility rate structure identified as “Option 3” during the May 16, 2019 presentation. Of the options presented, Option 3 moderates bill increases for very low water users and provides the most savings for the average customer on a yearly basis. **The Douglas County Board of Commissioners proposes to change the water rates and fees for all Douglas County water customers and will hold public hearings to review a proposed water utility rate resolution for the Douglas County Water Utility Fund on June 20, 2019 during their Lake meeting at Stateline and July 1, 2019 at their Valley meeting in Minden.**

The proposed rate structure, recommended by County Staff and the County’s water rate consultant, FCS Group, will fund the revenue requirement throughout the water system. The revenue requirement will ensure that all operational and maintenance needs are met and that all of the “most critical” and “critical” capital improvement projects throughout the water systems are funded. Based on public feedback, the proposed water rate structure will reduce the yearly average water utility bill, level seasonal average water bills, and provide incentives for water conservation in compliance with NRS 540.141. **Heavy water users (in excess of 30,000 gallons per month) will see an increase in their average monthly water bill.**

Background: On July 5, 2018, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 2018R-040, which established the Douglas County Water Utility Fund and consolidated the Carson Valley Water Fund and the Lake Tahoe Water Utility Fund into one consolidated water system and enterprise fund. Douglas County selected a water rate consultant, FCS Group, to provide an updated water rates and charges analysis for the consolidated Carson Valley Water Utility (Fund 328). The analysis included the infrastructure, financial resources and indebtedness of the Carson Valley and Lake Tahoe water systems. FCS Group previously provided analyses related to the consolidation of the County's water systems, including a 2013 analysis of the Lake Tahoe systems, and a 2010 study that evaluated the possibility of consolidating the then eight (8) separate water systems in the County.

The Board of County Commissioners heard the first presentation regarding FCS Group’s preliminary findings and recommendations on February 7, 2019. FCS Group presented several options for establishing a uniform water rate schedule for all County-operated water utilities. County Staff solicited additional public comment during a second water workshop, which was held at Lake Tahoe on March 21, 2019. County Staff and FCS Group used the information collected at the two workshops to develop the revised water rate structure options that were presented to the Board on May 16, 2019.

More information about the consolidation of our water systems, or to view the proposed rates visit www.douglascountynv.gov.

For additional questions contact:

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