



# WATER SYSTEM CONSOLIDATION

# FACT SHEET

## **If the Board adopts the proposed water rate Resolution, what will the average cost be for a single family home?**

For fiscal year 2019/2020, a typical metered water utility customer using 16,000 gallons of water in a given month will be billed \$67.60 for that month. Unmetered water customers within the Tahoe Township will be billed \$67.60 and will be charged an additional Capital Improvement Surcharge of \$20 per month. Water customers that use less than 30,000 gallons per month will likely see their monthly bill decrease or stay the same. Heavy water users (in excess of 30,000 gallons per month) will see an increase in their average monthly water bill.

## **How will my bill be calculated?**

Under the new water utility rate structure, your water bill is calculated as follows: each customer is charged a flat monthly service availability charge, which includes the first 4,000 gallons of water consumption each month. For metered customers who use more than 4,000 gallons of water in a given month, the customer is billed a consumption fee per additional 1,000 gallons used per month. The consumption fees are tiered. For unmetered customers within the Tahoe Township, the water bill is calculated based on an average consumption rate of 16,000 gallons per month. Customers within the Tahoe Township will also be charged an additional CIP surcharge.

## **Why change the water rates now?**

In 2014, the Board of County Commissioners adopted a five-year water utility rate structure for the Carson Valley customers. The rates are due for renewal in fiscal year 2019/2020. The Board also adopted a Resolution in 2018, which consolidated the Carson Valley Water Fund and the Lake Tahoe Water Utility Fund into one consolidated water system and enterprise fund.

## **What does my utility bill pay for? Don't my taxes pay for the water system?**

Like many government entities, Douglas County operates the Douglas County Water Utility as an independent enterprise fund as defined in NRS 354.517. Essentially, the Water Utility operates like a private business, providing a service that is paid for by the users of that service. The Utility uses customer payments to fund all of the maintenance, operation, and capital improvement needs of the system. The County contracted with the FCS Group to analyze the operating and maintenance costs, as well as the funding needs for all of the capital improvement needs of the system, and develop a new utility rate structure to support the enterprise fund for the next 5 years. The analysis identified approximately 66 million dollars in future capital improvements needed over the next 11 years. The proposed rate structure is designed to fund the most critical and critical capital improvements which represents approximately 50% of this total need.

## **When will the proposed rate take effect?**

The new rate structure will go into effect upon adoption by the Douglas County Board of Commissioners. Public hearings are scheduled to review a proposed water utility rate resolution for the Douglas County Water Utility Fund on June 20, 2019 during the regularly scheduled Lake meeting at Stateline and July 1, 2019 at their valley meeting in Minden. Final consideration and possible adoption of the rates is currently scheduled to occur at the July 1, 2019 meeting.

**\*Note:** This information is intended to supplement the materials provided during public meetings. It is intended to be helpful, but should not be interpreted as binding or authoritative. The Board of County Commissioners has the discretion to modify the proposed rate structure and charges at any time before adoption. The County does not guarantee that the information contained on this page is accurate or current. You are encouraged to attend the public meetings on this topic if you have additional questions. **Please visit [www.douglascountynv.gov](http://www.douglascountynv.gov)** to find the agendas for upcoming Board of County Commissioner meetings.