



Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) is a public agency that provides water and sewer service. Our rates are based on the actual cost to provide water and sewer service to our customers, and are based on the expenses included in IRWD's budget. The basis for the proposed rates is detailed in the Cost of Service Study, which is available at [IRWD.com/services/proposed-rates](http://IRWD.com/services/proposed-rates). The IRWD Board of Directors adopted a two-year budget on April 26, 2021. **The proposed rates, if adopted, will be effective January 24, 2022, and implemented beginning February 1, 2022.** The increase is due primarily to uncontrollable pass-through cost increases from regional agencies that supply water, regional sewer, or energy services to IRWD, as well as increases in costs associated with continuing to provide the current high level of water and sewer service our customers expect. See below for how the rates are calculated.

A critical IRWD objective is to keep costs, and therefore rates, as low as possible for our customers. Even with the proposed increase, when compared with other agencies providing similar services in Orange County, IRWD's rates are consistently among the lowest.

### First rate increase since July 2019

Rates have not been increased in 2½ years. In recognition of financial challenges facing customers during the first 20 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IRWD Board of Directors suspended a previously approved rate increase that was to become effective on July 1, 2020, and deferred a rate increase for costs associated with the new two-year budget approved in April 2021.

### Understanding basic components of your water bill

Your water bill has two basic components: variable water usage charges and service charges.

- **Variable water usage charges:** Variable costs — for water you use outdoors each month. These charges are based on the cost of local and imported water, and other costs of providing service that vary based on usage.
- **Service charges:** Fixed costs — to recover the fixed expenses of operating and maintaining IRWD's infrastructure. These monthly fixed costs fluctuate depending on the number of days in a billing cycle.

For customers located at higher elevations, a pumping surcharge is added to the variable water usage charge to cover pumping costs to serve higher elevations.

### Landscape / non-agricultural customers

#### Variable water usage charge

Each customer is assigned a monthly water usage budget. How much you pay for each 100 cubic feet (CCF) of water depends on whether you stay within your water budget. IRWD allocates its lowest-cost water for usage within the monthly water budget. Higher-cost water is used to meet demands of customers who use water above their budgets. For example, groundwater from local wells is the least expensive, while imported water from out of state or Northern California costs the most.

Rates are broken into four tiers. Each tier is assigned a rate based on the actual cost of serving customers within each tier. Cost of service includes both the cost of water based on the source of water and other variable costs as detailed below. The Low Volume and Base rate tiers are for water used within each customer's budget, which for potable water is sourced primarily from lower-cost groundwater and reduces the need to import expensive water. The majority of imported water costs are allocated to the Inefficient and Wasteful tiers. For both potable and recycled water, expenses for districtwide water-efficiency programs (districtwide conservation programs) that educate customers on ways to conserve water and assist customers with conservation are not included in the Low Volume rate since customers who remain in this tier do not need this assistance, but those expenses are included in the higher tiers. Additional costs associated with targeted conservation programs, urban runoff treatment, and water banking (for potable only) are paid only by customers with usage in the Inefficient and Wasteful tiers because their higher usage: (i) requires individualized conservation assistance, (ii) leads to urban runoff that requires costly treatment, and (iii) requires greater water reserves through water banking to provide reliable water supplies during a drought or other water shortage. Costs are allocated among those two tiers based on their share of costs to run these programs. IRWD would not need these programs if all customers remained within their individual water budgets.

Proposed potable variable water rates per CCF\* beginning February 1, 2022

Service	Low Volume tier	Base tier	Inefficient tier	Wasteful tier
Total water source cost	\$1.53	\$2.34	\$3.29	\$3.29
Districtwide conservation programs		\$0.08	\$0.08	\$0.08
Conservation programs targeted to over-budget customers, urban runoff costs and water banking costs			\$1.78	\$11.27
Total cost per CCF per tier proposed beginning February 2022	\$1.53	\$2.42	\$5.15	\$14.64
Current rates	\$1.47	\$2.00	\$4.86	\$13.63
<b>Change</b>	<b>\$0.06</b>	<b>\$0.42</b>	<b>\$0.29</b>	<b>\$1.01</b>

\* 1 CCF = 748 gallons



**Proposed recycled variable water rates per CCF beginning February 1, 2022**

Service	Low Volume tier	Base tier	Inefficient tier	Wasteful tier
Total water source cost	\$1.23	\$2.08	\$3.31	\$3.31
Districtwide conservation programs		\$0.08	\$0.08	\$0.08
Conservation programs targeted to over-budget customers, and urban runoff costs			\$0.64	\$3.81
Total cost per CCF per tier proposed beginning February 2022	\$1.23	\$2.16	\$4.03	\$7.20
Current rates	\$1.19	\$1.57	\$3.15	\$6.62
<b>Change</b>	<b>\$0.04</b>	<b>\$0.59</b>	<b>\$0.88</b>	<b>\$0.58</b>

**Summary of proposed potable variable water rates beginning February 1, 2022**

Tier	Percentage of monthly water budget for landscape/non-ag customers	Current rates per CCF	Proposed rates per CCF beginning February 1, 2022
Low Volume	0-40%	\$1.47	\$1.53
Base Rate	41-100%	\$2.00	\$2.42
Inefficient	101-140%	\$4.86	\$5.15
Wasteful	141%+	\$13.63	\$14.64

**Summary of proposed recycled variable water rates beginning February 1, 2022**

Tier	Percentage of monthly water budget for landscape/non-ag customers	Current rates per CCF	Proposed rates per CCF beginning February 1, 2022
Low Volume	0-40%	\$1.19	\$1.23
Base Rate	41-100%	\$1.57	\$2.16
Inefficient	101-140%	\$3.15	\$4.03
Wasteful	141%+	\$6.62	\$7.20

**How water budgets for potable landscape and recycled water customers (non-agricultural) are calculated**

Your monthly water usage budget is based on your irrigated landscape area and represents an efficient volume of water to meet your individualized water needs.

- **Potable landscape water budget:** is calculated for your property using actual data from local weather stations. We multiply your irrigated landscape area (in acres) x evapotranspiration (ET) x 0.75 ET factor (assumes that your landscape is 60% warm-season turf and includes 20% additional water to account for inefficiency in your irrigation system) x 36.3 conversion factor to convert acre inches to CCF.

- ✓ **CCF** is the basic measurement of water use. One CCF equals 100 cubic feet of water – about 748 gallons.
- ✓ **Evapotranspiration or ET** is a measure of actual daily plant water loss.
- ✓ **ET factor** adjusts for the plants in your landscape and provides an allowance for inefficiency in your irrigation system.



- **Recycled (non-agricultural) water budget:** is calculated for your property using actual data from local weather stations. We multiply your irrigated landscape area (in acres) x evapotranspiration x 0.87 ET factor (assumes that 100% of your landscape is warm-season turf and it includes 25% additional water to account for inefficiency in your irrigation system) x 36.3 conversion factor to convert acre inches to CCF.



### Water fixed service charges

In addition to the variable water usage charges that you control based on the amount of water you use, your bill contains fixed charges for water service. Fixed water service charges are based on the size of your water meter providing water flow to your property. These charges are assessed whether or not you use water that month and may increase or decrease based on the number of days in the billing period. The monthly fixed service charges cover IRWD’s cost of operations, maintenance, and infrastructure, and do not change based on the amount of a customer’s monthly water use. Monthly service charges are based on a 30-day calendar month so billing cycles that are longer or shorter than 30 days are billed based on the proportional number of days. The fixed charge includes an amount set aside for the future inevitable repair and replacement of infrastructure such as pipes, pumping stations, and treatment facilities. This way, IRWD can avoid significant one-time rate spikes when the repairs and replacements are made. These charges are not used to pay for facilities that extend service to new development.

**Proposed water service fixed monthly charges for system operation and maintenance**

Meter size	Current meter rates	Proposed rates beginning February 1, 2022
5/8" by 3/4" Disc	\$10.35	\$10.75
3/4" Disc	\$15.55	\$16.15
1" Disc	\$25.90	\$26.90
1 1/2" Disc	\$51.75	\$64.50
2" Disc	\$82.80	\$86.00
2" Turbo	\$108.70	\$134.40
3" Turbo	\$248.40	\$349.40
4" Turbo	\$517.50	\$671.90
6" Turbo	\$1,035.05	\$1,343.75
8" Turbo	\$1,811.35	\$2,526.25
10" Turbo	\$2,173.60	\$3,762.50
6" Magnetic Meter	\$1,447.50	\$1,503.40
8" Magnetic Meter	\$2,574.15	\$2,673.55
6" Propeller	\$698.65	\$483.75
8" Propeller	\$931.55	\$645.00
10" Propeller	\$1,242.05	\$860.00
12" or 14" Propeller	\$1,746.65	\$1,182.50
16", 18", or 20" Propeller	\$2,949.90	\$2,042.50
4" Omni F2	\$643.30	\$537.50
6" Omni F2	\$1,447.50	\$1,075.00
8" Omni F2	\$2,574.15	\$2,526.25
1 1/2" Single Jet	\$51.75	\$53.75
2" Single Jet	\$82.80	\$86.00
6" Single Jet	\$517.50	\$537.50

The current amount for your meter size appears on your bill. Potable customers who remain in the Low Volume tier for most of the year will have a larger percentage of their bill made up of the fixed charge. Customers who remain in the Low Volume tier for nine out of 12 months of the prior calendar year will receive a \$2.00 credit per month, which will be itemized on each bill. New customers do not receive this credit unless they have been with the District for a full calendar year.

### Agricultural customers

#### Water charges

Agricultural water use charges are billed monthly based on the actual volume of water used. Because agricultural water use is highly variable month-to-month and year-to-year (e.g., based on cropping patterns) it is billed based on actual usage rather than a water budget. The water rate for agricultural customers incorporates both the variable and fixed charge components. As a result, agricultural customers are not billed a separate fixed monthly charge based on their meter size.

**Proposed changes to agricultural water rates**

Tier	Current rate per CCF	Proposed rate beginning February 1, 2022
Potable	\$2.77	\$3.25
Recycled	\$1.64	\$1.70
Untreated	\$1.80	\$1.91



## All customers

### Why did the cost of water service increase?

The main reasons for the change include uncontrollable cost increases attributed to:

- Pass-through charges (5.7% increase) from Orange County Water District (OCWD) for pumping local groundwater, which is still the lowest-cost water.
- Pass-through charges from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) for imported water purchased through the regional wholesaler, the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) (4.6% increase).
- Pass-through charges from Southern California Edison (SCE) for electricity used in IRWD service operations (10% increase).
- Increases in costs associated with continuing to provide the current high level of water service our customers expect, including costs associated with repairs and maintenance related to maintaining the existing infrastructure (11.8% increase).

In recognition of financial challenges facing customers during the first 20 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IRWD Board of Directors suspended a rate increase that was to become effective on July 1, 2020, and deferred a rate increase for costs associated with the adoption of the new two-year budget in April 2021. IRWD is now increasing rates that are based on the current cost of providing water service.

### Pumping surcharges

A pumping surcharge will be added to the variable water usage charge for customers who are located at higher elevations and cause the District to incur additional pumping costs to supply their water. The surcharge is based on the actual prevailing energy costs and varies depending upon the elevation of the area served. If your property is in an area affected by a pumping surcharge, the charge is itemized on your monthly bill. Please visit the IRWD website at [IRWD.com/services/proposed-rates](http://IRWD.com/services/proposed-rates) to see charges by area.

Proposed changes to pumping surcharges		
Component	Current rates <i>(rates vary by pumping surcharge area)</i>	Proposed rates beginning February 1, 2022 <i>(rates vary by pumping surcharge area)</i>
Potable	\$0.25 to \$0.68/CCF	\$0.33 to \$0.79/CCF
Recycled	\$0.13 to \$0.43/CCF	\$0.14 to \$0.47/CCF

### Other charges

IRWD also charges for setting up new accounts for a property already connected to IRWD's service system and for reconnecting water service that has been shut off.

Proposed changes to fees to set up service account and reconnect service after a shut-off		
Component	Current rates	Proposed rates beginning February 1, 2022
One-time setup fee for new accounts	\$25.00	\$25.00
Shut-off reconnection fees	\$70.00 - \$95.00	\$50.00 - \$95.00

### Monthly water budgets and rate calculator available on IRWD.com

For more information about the rate tiers, the types of usage that determine the monthly water budget, how the monthly water budget is calculated, and to use the IRWD budget-based-rate calculator, please visit the IRWD website at [IRWD.com/services/proposed-rates](http://IRWD.com/services/proposed-rates). The calculator shows how staying within your monthly water budget or exceeding it will affect your monthly bill.

### Automatic pass-through adjustments and other surcharges

IRWD used its best available information to calculate proposed increases in the cost of imported water IRWD purchases from MWD through MWDOC, the replenishment charges paid to OCWD for pumping groundwater, the cost for regional treatment of sewage paid to the Orange County Sanitation District (OC San), and the cost of electricity charged by SCE. IRWD has no control over the charges set by regional agencies (MWD, MWDOC, OCWD, OC San, SCE, etc.) or penalties, taxes and fees assessed by the state, and must pass those costs through to IRWD customers. Should any of the regional agencies or the State of California adopt an additional increase (or decrease) in its charges, taxes, or fees ("pass-through amount"), IRWD may automatically recalculate its rates to include the pass-through amount. If this occurs, the automatic IRWD rate adjustment will not require a public hearing or any additional action by the IRWD Board of Directors. At least 30 days before the effective date of the adjustment, IRWD will provide its customers with notice of the expected adjustment(s), which will generally be calculated as



the total projected cost increase divided by the projected annual water consumption or annual total sewage flow as appropriate. This calculation will vary as necessary to reflect IRWD's different service areas and service classes.

If the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) imposes fines on IRWD because of a violation(s) of a State Board regulation adopted to prevent the waste or unreasonable use of water, or unreasonable method of use of water or to promote water conservation, to the extent such violation(s) are due to consumption of water in excess of customers' water usage budgets, IRWD may levy a surcharge on the volume of water used of up to \$1.57 per hundred cubic feet. If IRWD is fined by the State Board, at least 30 days before implementing a surcharge, IRWD will provide its customers with notice of the surcharge amount(s), which will generally be calculated as the total projected fine divided by the total water used in the Inefficient and Wasteful tiers.

**Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP)**

IRWD is required by the California Water Code Section 10632 to prepare and adopt a Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) as part of its Urban Water Management Plan. The WSCP, adopted by IRWD on June 28, 2021, includes plans to implement locally appropriate water shortage response actions for six standard water shortage levels. The following are the rates proposed as a potential response action for each water shortage level. These rates are based on the actual cost to provide service to our customers in times of water shortage. For a detailed explanation of the District's water shortage responses, please refer to the District's WSCP at [bit.ly/wscp-2021](http://bit.ly/wscp-2021). An overview of the supply shortage response actions considered for each level of water shortage can be found on Page 33, Table 3-3 of the WSCP. Achieving the WSCP reductions for each level will require a broad approach. The table below includes the target potable water use reduction for each level, the minimum potable water budget provided at each level and the steps necessary to meet the water shortage at each level.

**Minimum potable water budgets at each level of water shortage**

Water Shortage Contingency Plan level	Target potable reduction (Midpoint of the level)	Messaging and outreach	Outdoor potable water landscape plant assumption (Includes residential, dedicated irrigation, non-agricultural and CII outdoor)	ET factor	2022 & 2023 projected water shortage (Assuming five consecutive years of drought)
Normal/ non-shortage water budget	0	Water efficiency programs and outreach	40% drought-tolerant plants	.75	No water shortage; 100% reliable
Level 1 0-10%	5% 2,500 AF	Expanded messaging and targeted outreach	40% drought-tolerant plants	.75	No water shortage; 100% reliable
Level 2 11-20%	15% 7,700 AF	Expanded messaging and targeted outreach	No turf; 100% drought-tolerant plants	.625	No water shortage; 100% reliable
Level 3 21-30%	25% 12,800 AF	Expanded messaging and targeted outreach	No turf; tree health affected; 75% native plants; 25% drought-tolerant plants	.35	No water shortage; 100% reliable
Level 4 31-40%	35% 18,000 AF	Expanded messaging and targeted outreach	No turf; tree health affected; 100% native plants only	.25	No water shortage; 100% reliable





# Irvine Ranch Water District Notice of Proposed Water Rate Change

LANDSCAPE / AGRICULTURAL

<b>Level 5 41-50%</b>	45% 23,000 AF	Expanded messaging and targeted outreach	No landscape	0	No water shortage; 100% reliable
<b>Level 6 51%+</b>	55% 28,200 AF	Expanded messaging and targeted outreach	No landscape	0	No water shortage; 100% reliable

### How a water shortage could affect potable rates

If IRWD experiences a water shortage, IRWD may be required to implement water shortage response actions that would include possible potable water rate increases due to changes in costs to provide customers with water during a shortage. The water rates at each water shortage level are shown in the following table. The IRWD Board of Directors will consider adopting these rates concurrently with the water rates discussed above. The water shortage contingency rates would only be charged to potable customers depending on the level and duration of the water shortage as defined in the WSCP, and only when conditions declared by IRWD's Board are met. Customers will receive communication of when these conditions have been met and when the water shortage contingency rates are being charged.

Proposed potable water shortage contingency rates per CCF beginning February 1, 2022						
Rate tiers	Level 1: up to 10% water shortage	Level 2: 11% to 20% water shortage	Level 3: 21% to 30% water shortage	Level 4: 31% to 40% water shortage	Level 5: 41% to 50% water shortage	Level 6: greater than 50% water shortage
Low Volume	\$1.53	\$1.53	\$1.53	\$1.55	\$1.57	\$1.60
Base Rate	\$2.43	\$2.46	\$2.50	\$2.53	\$2.57	\$2.62
Inefficient	\$5.45	\$5.86	\$6.34	\$6.91	\$7.40	\$7.71
Wasteful	\$15.77	\$17.11	\$18.74	\$19.90	\$21.21	\$21.86

For more information regarding how the monthly water budget is calculated for each of these rates, and to use a WSCP budget-based-rate calculator, visit [IRWD.com/wscp-rates](http://IRWD.com/wscp-rates).

### Public hearing

Any customer or property owner within the IRWD service area may file a written protest for the proposed rate increases with IRWD by sending a letter to IRWD, P.O. Box 5149, Irvine, CA 92616. A valid protest letter must include your name, the address at which you receive service from IRWD, a statement of protest, and your original signature. Protest letters received by January 24, 2022, will be tabulated and presented to the Board of Directors at a public hearing regarding the rate increase to be held on January 24, 2022, at 5 p.m. in the IRWD Board Room, 15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine, California. Any customer or property owner may appear at the hearing to make comments regarding the proposed rates. Protest letters may be delivered in person and must be received prior to the conclusion of the January 24 public hearing.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 53759, there is a 120-day statute of limitations for any judicial action or proceeding challenging any new, increased, or extended water and sewer fee or charge.

### Additional information

For more information about IRWD's water efficiency programs and rebates, plus tips on how you can use water more efficiently, visit [IRWD.com](http://IRWD.com). If you have questions, please contact IRWD Customer Service at **949-453-5300**.