

ORDINANCE NO. 149

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LINDA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT ADJUSTING WATER AND SEWER SERVICE RATES

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Directors of the Linda County Water District as follows:

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to increase and adjust the District water and sewer rates to account for increased costs of providing the service because of inflation, increased costs of supplies, services, labor, benefits, and regulatory compliance, and to fund capital improvements and adequate operational and capital reserve levels. This is the District's first water rate increase since 2019 and first sewer rate increase since 2008.

Section 2. Findings. The Board of Directors finds and determines as follows:

(a) The increased water service rates and sewer service rates implemented by this ordinance have been fixed in an amount sufficient to pay the operating expenses of the District's water and sewer utility operations, provide for repairs and replacement of water system and sewer system works, provide for increased costs of regulatory compliance, and pay the principal and interest on utility system indebtedness.

(b) The increased water service rates and sewer service rates are reasonably related to, and do not exceed, the District's cost of providing water and sewer service to each parcel.

(c) The revenues derived from the water service rates and sewer service rates do not exceed the funds required to provide water and sewer service to District customers and are not used for any purpose other than the specified utility service.

(d) The amount of the water service rates and sewer service rates imposed on each customer's parcel does not exceed the proportional cost of each service attributable to that parcel.

(e) The District water and sewer utility services are services that are actually used by and immediately available to the owner of each parcel receiving service.

(f) No portion of this fee increase is imposed for general governmental services.

(g) The District Board of Directors has conducted a duly noticed public hearing on this proposed increase in water service rates and sewer service rates in accordance with California Constitution article XIII D and the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act, and the Board did not receive a majority protest against the proposed increase in the rates for either water or sewer service.

(h) The increased water service rates and sewer service rates are supported by the District's water and sewer rate study prepared by Lechowicz & Tseng Municipal Consultants dated July 2, 2025; the Notice of Public Hearing mailed on August 1, 2025; the 2023-24 and 2024-25 District budgets; and the Fiscal Year 2023-24 District audited financial statements.

Section 3. Water Service Rate Adjustment. Linda County Water District Code Chapter 5, section 5.19.1, paragraphs A and B are hereby amended to include the five-year schedule of increases in the District's Monthly Base Rate Service Charges and Monthly Metered Rate Service Charges in the amounts set forth in Exhibit A attached to and made a part of this ordinance.

Section 4. Sewer Service Rate Adjustment. Linda County Water District Code Chapter 4, section 4.11.25, paragraphs A and C are hereby amended to include, and paragraph B is to be replaced, by the five-year schedule of increases in the District's Monthly Base Rate Service Charges and Monthly Metered Rate Service Charges in the amounts set forth in Exhibit A attached to and made a part of this ordinance.

Section 5. CEQA. The Board of Directors finds that the increase in the water service rates and sewer service rates enacted in this ordinance are for the purposes of meeting operating expenses of the District water and sewer utility operations (including labor, supplies, equipment and materials) respectively, meeting financial reserve needs and requirements of the District water and sewer systems as applicable, and obtaining funds for water system and sewer system improvements that are necessary to maintain and enhance these utility services within the existing District service area. Accordingly, the Board of Directors determines that these rate increases are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act and CEQA Guidelines. (Public Resources Code section 21080(b)(8); CEQA Guidelines section 15273.)

Section 6. Effective Date. This ordinance and the new water service rates and sewer service rates shall take effect on November 1, 2025.

Section 7. Posting. The District Secretary is directed to post a copy of this ordinance in three public places within the District within 10 days after its enactment.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Linda County Water District on this 13th day of October 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: Director Knundson, Director McAleer, Director Whitaker, and Director Stevens

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Director Saunders

By: Keith Whitaker
Keith Whitaker
Vice-President, Board of Directors

Attest:

Melinda Thornsberry
Melinda Thornsberry
District Secretary



Exhibit A

Schedule of Annual Increases in Monthly Base Rate Service Charges and Monthly Metered Rate Service Charges (Five-Year Schedule)

WATER RATES

Monthly Water Rates

Water Meter Charges are fixed monthly fees that are based on meter size. Per District policy, residential customers who have a 1" meter to satisfy fire flow requirements but would otherwise not need a meter that large are billed at the 3/4" meter rate. The Consumption Rate is charged per unit of water consumed and primarily recovers the cost of supply and conveyance of water to customers. The Consumption Rate is billed per one hundred cubic feet (CCF) of metered water usage. One hundred cubic feet is 748 gallons.

Table 1 lists the water rate increases for the period November 1, 2025 through November 1, 2029. New rates go into effect November 1 of each year from 2025 to 2029.

Table 1: Current and Adopted Monthly Water Rates

Effective Date	CURRENT	Scheduled Rate Increases				
		Nov 1, 2025	Nov 1, 2026	Nov 1, 2027	Nov 1, 2028	Nov 1, 2029
BASE RATE						
<u>Meter Size</u>						
5/8"	\$16.50	\$17.40	\$17.55	\$17.70	\$17.88	\$18.05
3/4"	\$24.75	\$25.87	\$26.09	\$26.31	\$26.58	\$26.83
1"	\$41.15	\$42.80	\$43.16	\$43.53	\$43.97	\$44.39
1.5"	\$82.15	\$85.12	\$85.83	\$86.58	\$87.44	\$88.29
2"	\$131.40	\$135.91	\$137.04	\$138.24	\$139.61	\$140.97
3"	\$246.40	\$254.42	\$256.53	\$258.78	\$261.34	\$263.89
4"	\$410.50	\$423.72	\$427.23	\$430.98	\$435.24	\$439.49
6"	\$820.65	\$846.97	\$853.98	\$861.48	\$869.99	\$878.49
8"	--	\$1,354.87	\$1,366.08	\$1,378.08	\$1,391.69	\$1,405.29
CONSUMPTION RATE						
per CCF	\$1.65	\$1.57	\$1.60	\$1.63	\$1.66	\$1.70

CCF = one hundred cubic feet; 1 CCF = 748 gallons

SEWER RATES

Monthly Sewer Rates Residential Rates and Annual School Rates

Monthly residential sewer rates are shown in Table 2. All residential customers pay a fixed monthly service charge that reflects the cost to serve the average flow of a typical customer. Multi-family customers such as apartments, mobile homes, and accessory dwelling units are charged a lower rate that reflects lower average sewer flows of those customers. Table 2 also includes school rates. School service is billed annually based on the average daily attendance of students.

Table 2: Current and Adopted Monthly Residential Rates and Annual School Rates

Effective Date	Current	Scheduled Rate Increases				
		Nov 1, 2025	Nov 1, 2026	Nov 1, 2027	Nov 1, 2028	Nov 1, 2029
RESIDENTIAL (per dwelling unit)						
Single Family	\$36.80	\$42.71	\$46.41	\$50.44	\$52.30	\$54.24
Multi-Family	\$36.80	\$33.95	\$36.89	\$40.09	\$41.57	\$43.11
SCHOOLS						
per student per year	\$15.61	\$15.15	\$16.67	\$18.34	\$19.26	\$20.22

Multi-Family dwelling units include triplexes, apartments, condominiums, townhouses, accessory dwelling units, assisted living homes, mobile homes, manufactured homes, and recreational vehicles.

Monthly Non-residential Sewer Rates

Non-residential categories are consolidated from seven to four, consisting of a low wastewater pollutant strength category, domestic strength, medium strength, and high strength. The monthly non-residential rates are shown in Table 4. The flow rates are billed based on average winter water use. The base fee includes up to the first 8 hundred cubic feet (CCF) of flow and only flow above the first 8 CCF be billed the flow rates shown in Table 4. The base fee includes the first 8 CCF as that is the average single family residential flow and is the basis of the single family residential rate.

Table 4: Adopted Monthly Non-residential Sewer Rates

Effective Date	Scheduled Rate Increases				
	Nov 1, 2025	Nov 1, 2026	Nov 1, 2027	Nov 1, 2028	Nov 1, 2029
COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND NON-SCHOOL INSTITUTIONAL BASE FEE (includes up to the first 8 CCF)					
Low Strength: Class 0 & 1	\$39.19	\$42.72	\$46.56	\$48.42	\$50.36
Domestic Strength: Class 2 & 5	\$42.71	\$46.55	\$50.74	\$52.77	\$54.88
Medium Strength: Class 3 & 6	\$53.43	\$58.24	\$63.48	\$66.02	\$68.66
High Strength: Class 4 & 7	\$70.55	\$76.90	\$83.82	\$87.17	\$90.66
COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND NON-SCHOOL INSTITUTIONAL FLOW CHARGE (\$ per CCF above 8 CCF)					
Low Strength: Class 0 & 1	\$3.94	\$4.29	\$4.68	\$4.87	\$5.06
Domestic Strength: Class 2 & 5	\$4.38	\$4.77	\$5.20	\$5.41	\$5.63
Medium Strength: Class 3 & 6	\$5.72	\$6.23	\$6.79	\$7.06	\$7.34
High Strength: Class 4 & 7	\$7.86	\$8.57	\$9.34	\$9.71	\$10.10

CCF = one hundred cubic feet; 1 CCF = 748 gallons

See Table 5 for a description of customer classes

Table 5: Non-residential Sewer Rate Categories

<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Rate Category</u>
Class 0	Car washes, business offices, barber shops, retail stores, churches, hospitals, laundromats, and similar businesses	Low Strength
Class 1	Same as Class 0	Low Strength
Class 2	Auto repair shops, gas stations, grocery stores and markets without garbage disposals, hotels without dining facilities, and similar businesses.	Domestic Strength
Class 3	Fast food restaurants, commercial laundries, hotels with dining facilities, and similar businesses.	Medium Strength
Class 4	Full food preparation restaurants, grocery stores and markets with garbage disposals, bakeries, mortuaries, industrial laundry facilities, and similar businesses.	High Strength
Class 5	Same as Class 2	Domestic Strength
Class 6	Same as Class 3	Medium Strength
Class 7	Same as Class 4	High Strength