



Yorba Linda Water District Rate Study & Proposition 218 Process Frequently Asked Questions

Where YLWD is in the Rate Study & Proposition 218 Process

- The District has **completed its water and sewer rate study**.
 - **Proposition 218 notices have been mailed** to customers.
 - A **public hearing on the proposed rates** will be held on April 9th at 4:30 p.m.
 - **No final decision has been made** on the proposed rates.
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General Questions

What is the District doing right now?

The District is in the Proposition 218 notice period. Customers have been notified of proposed rates and have the opportunity to review them and provide input before the Board makes a decision.

Why did I receive a Proposition 218 notice?

State law requires the District to notify all customers and property owners within its service area whenever new or increased rates are proposed. The notice explains the proposed rates, why they are being considered, and how customers can participate in the process.

Are the rates in the notice final?

No. The rates listed are proposed only. The Board will consider public input at the Public Hearing on April 9, 2026 before taking any final action.

What information is included in the Proposition 218 Notice?

The Proposition 218 Notice includes:

- The date, time, and location of the **public hearing**
- Proposed water and sewer rates and how they compare to current rates
- Information on how to participate in the process



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Public Hearing & Protest Process

What is the public hearing?

The public hearing is a Board meeting where customers can comment on the proposed rates before the Board decides whether to adopt them. The public hearing is scheduled for April 9, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

How can customers share their concerns with the District?

Customers may:

- Attend the public hearing and participate during public comments
- Submit a written protest and/or legal objection following the instructions in the Proposition 218 notice

What is a written protest?

A written protest is a formal protest submitted by a customer during the Proposition 218 process. To be counted, it must meet the requirements described in the notice and be received before the close of the public hearing on **April 9, 2026**.

What happens if enough written protests are received?

If a majority of affected parcels (>50%) submit valid written protests, the proposed rates cannot be adopted.

What is a legal objection?

A legal objection is an objection submitted by a customer that must meet the requirements described in the notice and be received by **March 23, 2026**. A legal objection preserves the customer's right to challenge a rate later in court and gives YLWD a chance to respond to the objection before a final decision is made.

Can a customer both protest and attend the hearing?

Yes. Submitting a written protest does not prevent a customer from attending or participating at the public hearing.



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Rate Study Questions

What is a rate study?

A rate study is a financial analysis that looks at the District's costs to provide safe and reliable water and sewer services now and in the future. It helps determine whether current rates are sufficient and, if not, what changes may be needed.

Why did the District do a rate study this past year?

The District periodically conducts rate studies to ensure rates keep up with operating costs, infrastructure needs, regulatory requirements, and long-term planning. These studies are typically done by the District every 5 years.

What costs are included in the rate study?

The completed rate study evaluated the cost of providing reliable water and sewer services, including:

- Day-to-day operations and maintenance
- Water supply and treatment costs
- Infrastructure repair and replacement
- Regulatory compliance
- Debt service and financial reserves

The study helps ensure rates align with the actual cost of water and sewer services.

Does the rate study automatically require a rate increase?

No. The rate study provides information and evaluates whether existing rates are adequate. Proposed rate changes are based on the study's findings and must go through the Proposition 218 process and Board approval.

Who prepared the rate study?

YLWD's rate study was prepared by an independent, professional consultant, Water Resources Economics, who specializes in water and sewer utility finance.



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Timing & Next Steps

When would new rates take effect?

If approved, new rates would take effect July 1, 2026.

Where can customers get more information?

For more information about the rate study and public process, customers can:

- Visit the District's website at www.ylwd.com/ratestudy
- Register for one of the following "Behind the Bill Tours" on the District's website:
 - March 3, 2026 - 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
 - March 10, 2026 - 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
 - March 24, 2026 - 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Attend Board meetings
- Email us at rates@ylwd.com or call us at 714-701-3000