

STINSON BEACH COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
NOTICE OF PROPOSED DROUGHT EXCESS WATER USE CHARGE AND FINES

July 1, 2021

TO: CUSTOMERS/RECORD PROPERTY OWNERS

The Board of Directors of the Stinson Beach County Water District (District) will consider a Water Rationing Ordinance that includes rules and regulations for water use including restricted allotments for water use, a drought excess water use charge and fines for exceeding the allowed allotment. The Ordinance being considered is identical to the Drought Ordinance adopted by the Board in 2014 after public hearings. The Board will consider adopting the Ordinance after a public hearing scheduled for 9:30 a.m., Saturday, August 21, 2021.

The District’s schedule of water rates includes two main monthly charges for metered services – a basic water service charge that is based on the size of the meter and a water usage charge for each hundred cubic feet (or 748 gallons) of water used. The current water usage charge is based on a tiered system with the per hundred cubic foot charge starting at \$1.95 per hundred cubic feet and increasing to \$27.54 per hundred cubic feet depending on the amount of water used. The proposed drought excess water use charge is a new charge that will be imposed in addition to the water usage charge. For residential use, the drought excess water use charge will be applied to each hundred cubic feet of water that exceeds the allotment. The proposed excess water use charge will not impact the monthly fixed basic water service charge. The proposed fines are penalties that will be imposed starting with the second month that water usage exceeds the specified allotment.

Summary of Proposed Drought Excess Water Use Charge

Residential Use

The proposed drought excess water use charge is \$100 per hundred cubic feet (or 748 gallons) of water that is used in excess of the allotment established for each customer/property owner. The allotment is the amount of water that flows through each water meter and is reduced to a monthly maximum of an average of 125 gallons per day per water meter. Additional allotments may be granted after application to the district for households with higher numbers of full time residents or other special needs. The maximum additional allotment that may be approved is set out in the chart below.

4 residents	145 gallons per day maximum
5 residents	160 gallons per day maximum
6 residents	175 gallons per day maximum
7 or more residents	185 gallons per day maximum

Despite the above, if the average daily flow allowed by the discharge permit for the property is less than the requested extra allotment set forth above, the average daily flow shall be limited to the allotment set out in the discharge permit. In no case will the allotment exceed the average daily flow allowed by the discharge permit for the property.

Commercial Use

Each commercial establishment whose business requires water use will have an allotment that is equal to 80% of the average monthly amount of water measured by the meter in 2019 for the month of usage and therefore must voluntarily reduce its use of water each month by 20% of their usage for that month in 2019.

How the Proposed Drought Excess Water Use Charge Might Impact Your Water Bill

If you are a residential customer in the District with a three-quarter-inch water meter, the following table illustrates how the water usage portion of your monthly water bill might be impacted by the proposed drought excess water use charge.

* (1-3 residents = 125 gallons/day)

Gallons/Day	Your Water Use	Current Bill	Proposed Water Bill	Impact	Bill Increase %
125 gal/day	500 cubic feet (3,740 gallons) /monthly	\$9.75	\$9.75	0	0
250 gal/day	1,000 cfm (7,480 gallons)/monthly	\$30.42	\$530.42	\$500	1,740%
375 gal/day	1,500 cfm (11,220 gallons)/monthly	\$69.82	\$1,069.82	\$1,000	1,530%
750 gal/day	3,000 cfm (22,440 gallons)/monthly	\$290.60	\$2,790.60	\$2,500	960%
1,125 gal/day	4,500 cfm (33,660 gallons)/monthly	\$640.30	\$4,640.30	\$4,000	725%

Reasons for the Proposed Drought Excess Water Use Charge

The proposed drought excess water use charge is required to address the financial impacts of the drought, including lost revenue due to reduced demand, additional and more expansive water conservation and drought education efforts, implementation and enforcement of water use restrictions, and costs of exploring additional groundwater resources. Prior to adopting the 2014 Drought Ordinance, the District reviewed the proposed drought excess water use charge and fine at the Board of Directors meetings on the following dates: March 24, April 19, May 17, and June 21, 2014, and determined that those who use more water in this water shortage emergency require the District to incur greater costs to provide that water service.

Summary of Proposed Fines

Residential Use

The purposes of the proposed fines are to conserve and preserve the District’s limited water supply in the water shortage emergency and to prevent violations of the water use restrictions. The proposed fines for exceeding the allotment established for each customer/property owner are based on the per month total water usage and are as follows:

First month water usage exceeds the allotment	Written warning only
Second month water usage exceeds the allotment	\$100 fine
Third month and all subsequent months water usage exceeds the allotment	\$500 fine

The first, second, third, and subsequent months that water usage exceeds the allotment need not be consecutive months but are for each month the water usage exceeds the allotment during the water shortage emergency. These fines would be imposed in addition to the drought excess water use charge. These fines are flat fines; they are imposed on a per month basis regardless of the amount of water usage that exceeds the allotment for the property.

After the third month the water usage exceeds the allotment, the District may proceed to terminate the water service to that property.

Effective Date

If adopted by the Board of Directors, the Ordinance will be effective beginning on September 1, 2021. Excess water usage charges and fines will be implemented once the District has reached the trigger point.

Public Hearing

A public hearing on the proposed drought excess water usage charge and fines will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 21, 2021 at the Stinson Beach County Water District office. You have the right to protest the proposed drought excess water usage charge. If you do, you must submit your protest in writing, even if you plan to attend the public hearing. If written protests are submitted by a majority of the affected property owners and customers responsible for paying the water bills, the proposed drought excess water usage charge will not be imposed, and the District will consider other alternatives to the drought excess water use charge. One written protest per parcel will be counted in calculating a majority protest.

Your written protest must be received prior to the close of the August 21, 2021 public hearing. Written protests must include a description of the parcel (parcel number) or District account number. E-mail protests will not be accepted.

Send written protest to:

Stinson Beach County Water District

PO Box 245

Stinson Beach CA 94970

Attention: Drought Excess Water Use Charge Protest

Office location is 3785 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach CA 94970

Sincerely,
Ed Schmidt, General Manager