

ARVIN-EDISON WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON AN ASSESSMENT BALLOT PROCEEDINGS FOR A PROPOSED
INCREASE IN THE GENERAL PROJECT SERVICE CHARGE

The purpose of this Notice is to provide you with information about the “assessment ballot proceeding” being conducted by the Arvin-Edison Water Storage District and its effect on real property that you own. This notice is being sent to you in accordance with Arvin-Edison Water Storage District Resolution No. 21-15, Government Code section 53753, and Article XIIIID section 4(c) of the California Constitution.

Please be advised of the following:

The public hearing on this matter will be held **at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 13, 2021**. The hearing shall be conducted electronically under Executive Orders N-33-20 and N-29-20. The ballots will be opened and tabulated at the District Office, at 20401 Bear Mountain Boulevard, Arvin, CA 93203. Information on how to participate electronically will be included in the agenda posted on the District’s website (www.aewsd.org) in advance of the meeting on July 13, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. If you wish to comment on this matter you are invited to do so at the public hearing.

The District proposes a maximum increase in the GPSC for Agricultural parcels greater than 1 acre and all parcels greater than 10 acres from \$111.09 per acre to \$161.09 per acre, Non-Agricultural parcels (between 1 acre and 10 acres) from \$78.34 per acre to \$113.60 per acre, and sub-acre parcels from \$22.64 to \$32.83, on an as needed basis. The amount of the proposed maximum increase in the GPSC on your individual parcel(s) is listed on the accompanying sheet identifying your parcels; however, the Board intends to adopt, for the 2021-2022 tax year, only a \$32.00 per acre increase in the GPSC for Irrigated Agricultural parcels (greater than 10 acres), a \$22.57 per acre increase for Non-Agricultural parcels (between 1 acre and 10 acres), and a \$6.52 per parcel increase for sub-acre parcels. The GPSC increases were calculated so that your property will be charged no more than the actual amount of benefit your parcel(s) receives from the District’s water project as shown in the Engineers Report, which is on file with the District for your review. The reason for the increase is to provide the appropriate operating capital so the District’s water recharge and delivery project, which provides the benefit to your property, may continue as it has historically. Without said capital, the District will be forced to curtail its water recharge activities and reduce operations and/or repair activities. The Engineer’s Report calculations were based upon a review of the District’s budgetary needs to maintain the current levels of service and the benefit to your property, while factoring in the recent substantial increase in costs which were outside of the District’s control, in providing your property with the benefit of the project. The report concluded that even with this increase your property still receives a financial benefit from the District’s operations of the project because the cost of supplying your property with water would be substantially higher without the project than the proposed increase in the GPSC.

It is also proposed that after reaching the maximum increase the District’s Board of Directors may at its discretion increase the GPSC according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics West Region Size Class B/C Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) to cover additional costs or inflation affecting the project. It should be noted that the increase is a ceiling on the amount chargeable by the District and in any given year the Board may elect to charge less than the proposed increase.

Enclosed with this notice, you will find an assessment ballot. Please follow the directions listed below and on the assessment ballot to express your view on the proposed assessment.

You may mail your own ballot in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope to Arvin-Edison Water Storage District, c/o MK Elections, P.O. Box 638, Arvin, CA 93203-9900 or hand deliver it to David A. Nixon, Deputy General Manager, Arvin-Edison Water Storage District, 20401 East Bear Mountain Blvd, Arvin, CA 93203-0175. Regardless of whether you choose to mail or hand deliver your ballot it *MUST* be received at the District Office, 20401 East Bear Mountain Blvd, Arvin, CA 93203-0175 no later than the conclusion of the public hearing set for 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 13, 2021. Additionally, if you wish you may submit your ballot at the public hearing and you may change your vote at any time prior to the conclusion of the public hearing on this matter. However, because the ballots must remain sealed until the tabulation begins regardless of your method of delivery, we ask that you please seal your ballot in the enclosed return envelope and include your name and address on the envelope so that we may return your ballot to you if you wish.

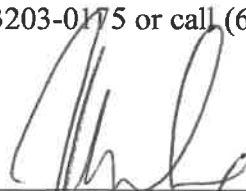
A ballot will not be accepted nor tabulated: 1) which is a photocopy without an original signature; 2) which is unsigned; 3) which lacks an identifiable “yes” or “no” vote; or 4) which appears to have been tampered with or otherwise invalid based upon its appearance or method of delivery. The Deputy General Manager will begin tabulating ballots, including those received during the public hearing, and will post the results in the District’s office as soon as practical after the hearing. The Board of Directors will not impose the increase in the GPSC if there is a “majority protest.” A majority protest exists if upon the conclusion of the hearing votes submitted in opposition to the increase exceed the votes submitted in favor of the increase. Votes on the ballots shall be weighted according to the proportional increase in the financial obligation of the affected property.

Note, if your parcel(s) has more than one ownership interest, the various owners may submit their own ballots. In the event all of the separate owners fail to submit their own ballots, the District will tabulate the submitted ballots proportionally to reflect a one hundred percent (100%) vote. For example, if a parcel(s) had five ownership interests and only one ballot is submitted, that ballot will be counted as the vote for all five owners. On the other hand if the District receives two ballots on the property, one YES and one NO, the District will apportion fifty percent (50%) of that parcel(s)’s vote to YES and fifty percent (50%) to NO.

Notice is further given that a copy of the preliminary roll prepared pursuant to a Resolution of the Board fixing the amount of the General Administrative and General Project Services Charges for each parcel subject to said charges, is available for public inspection at the District’s office during regular business hours at the address shown below. Objections to the roll or charges established for the respective parcels of land in accordance with said preliminary roll will also be heard at said hearing on July 13, 2021.

Should you have any questions, please write to: David A. Nixon, Deputy General Manager, Arvin-Edison Water Storage District, P.O. Box 175, Arvin, CA 93203-0175 or call (661) 854-5573.

Dated: 5/12/21



John C. Moore, Secretary-Treasurer