

Yolo County - Wild Wings CSA
FY23/24 Water and Wastewater Rate Update Project
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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1. Why are the Wild Wings CSA utility rates being updated?

The Wild Wings CSA utility rates were last updated in 2018. The utility rates need to be updated to reflect changes in the costs of service including higher operations and capital project costs and to support the completion of priority utility projects to meet regulatory requirements.

2. What are the recommended rate adjustments?

Based on updated utility system revenue projections, both water and wastewater rates will be increasing in FY24/25. While utility rates will be increasing the golf course operational charges will be decreasing resulting in a 5.2% total increase for all charges (water, wastewater, and golf course operations) in FY24/25. Water rates are being updated from a single to two-tier rate structure for more equitable cost allocation and billing purposes.

3. Is the updated two-tier water rate structure going to collect adequate revenues to support utility operations?

The two-tier water structure being implemented in FY24/25 is designed to meet annual water fund revenue requirements based on estimated water use in the Wild Wings CSA service area. Water rates will be managed based on actual annual water use and revenue requirements and will be kept as low as possible.

4. Do most residents exceed 180,000 gallons per year that will mean they will pay the Tier 2 rate for some of their annual water use?

No. Most Wild Wings residents use less than 180,000 gallons per year, meaning all water will be charged at the Tier 1 rate. Based on recent water use trends approximately 40% of Wild Wings properties exceeded 180,000 gallons per year and 12% of properties exceeded 250,000 gallons per year. Water conservation information and tips are available on the Yolo County Wild Wings CSA website to assist property owners with their water conservation efforts.

5. Do all utility funds collected through rates benefit the Wild Wings CSA utility systems? Yes.

All revenues collected through rates for each utility are maintained in separate dedicated accounts and budgets and can only be used to operate, maintain, repair, and replace the utility infrastructure. For example, water rate revenues can only be used to fund actions that benefit the water system and CSA ratepayers.

6. Will County budgeted items be spent each year?

The County budgets time and resources needed to support the Wild Wings CSA administration providing an organizational structure to support utility operations in the CSA. If the County does not need to spend the dollar amount budgeted in a particular budget item, the unspent portion will remain in the utility fund balance for purposes beneficial to the utility. The County will update their budget items annually based on updated cost projections. County budget line items no longer needed will be eliminated during the annual budget process.

7. Will annual inflation adjustments be included in annual utility rates adjustments?

The five-year utility revenue projections include annual inflation adjustments which will be implemented annually as needed to support utility operations. If an annual rate adjustment is not needed, the annual inflation adjustment factor may not be implemented if the utility has sufficient fund balances. The inflation adjustment helps rates keep up with the higher costs of service resulting from inflationary pressures and factors (such as higher prices for steel, chlorine, supplies, materials, labor, and equipment).

8. How will the new utility rates be implemented in FY24/25?

If approved, the new water and wastewater rates will be effective with the FY 24/25 tax bill. The fixed and variable charges will continue to be collected on the annual tax rate. For the FY 24/25 tax bill, the water rates charged will be based on the water usage during the FY 23/24 period. Future water rate charges will be implemented in a similar manner.