

# SPECIAL ON TAP NEWSLETTER

JUNE  
2023

## SECURING YOUR WATER FUTURE

Trabuco Canyon Water District is proud to provide reliable water, wastewater and recycled water services 24/7-365 to maintain our community's health and safety.

**TCWD is currently considering a rate increase to cover the rising costs of providing these critical services and to reinvest ratepayer funds into infrastructure rehabilitation projects and technological upgrades.**

As a public water and wastewater utility, TCWD's rate-setting process is regulated by state law. We cannot charge our customers more than the cost associated with the services we provide.

## KEEPING PACE WITH RISING COSTS

Since the pandemic, TCWD has faced the same unprecedented cost increases that our customers have felt at home and at work, including more expensive electricity, fuel and the highest inflation in 40 years. Construction costs have increased due to labor shortages and delays in acquiring parts and equipment. Plus, TCWD services require a lot of electricity to pump water up to the high elevations we serve.

TCWD's costs to operate, maintain and replace the water, wastewater and recycled water utilities continue to increase. These costs include:

1. The costs to purchase, treat, store and deliver water, which includes energy costs to move water throughout the system.
2. Wastewater collection, treatment and biosolid disposal costs.
3. Recycled water treatment, storage and distribution costs.
4. Critical reinvestment in aging capital facilities for all three utilities.

While TCWD has been able to use its financial strength and reserves to help buffer our customers from these impacts, it can not do so indefinitely.

The proposed rate increases to support the cost of operations are due to the following cost drivers:



Significant increases in electricity and gas prices



The cost to purchase and treat water



Water and wastewater treatment chemicals



Compliance with state and federal regulations and mandates



Construction of infrastructure improvements needed for aging water and sewer systems



District labor necessary to maintain the operations of the district



Ongoing maintenance of vital infrastructure

## CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

TCWD invests ratepayer funds into projects that are critical to ensuring the quality and reliability of water and sewer service to over 13,000 customers. The District plans to spend \$47 million over the next 10 years for the ongoing rehabilitation of our treatment plants, pump stations, reservoirs, transmission mains, as well as valve replacements and future water reliability projects.



# THE VALUE OF TAP WATER



At your tap, TCWD water costs only one penny per gallon to deliver safe, clean drinking water to every home and business from sources up to 400 miles away!



Over two-thirds of TCWD's expenses do not vary with the amount of water sold; they support the services and infrastructure that are ready to serve customers 24 hours a day, including adequate flow and pressure to protect life and property due to fires or other disasters.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND GENERAL MANAGER

Stephen Dopudja, President  
Edward Mandich, Vice President  
Glenn Acosta, Director  
Don Chadd, Director  
Michael Safranski, Director  
Fernando Paludi, General Manager

## STAY IN TOUCH



**Trabuco Canyon Water District**  
32003 Dove Canyon Drive  
Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679



**(949) 858-0277**



**customerservice@tcwd.ca.gov**



**tcwd.ca.gov**

# CHAT WITH TCWD

Opportunity to ask the District anything, including questions about proposed rate increases and upcoming infrastructure projects. Enjoy an evening of light refreshments and conversation with staff and Board members.

**JUNE 20, 2023**

**6-7:30 P.M.**

**TCWD Administration Building**  
32003 Dove Canyon Drive  
Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679

## YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A PUBLIC HEARING

**TCWD invites you to attend a Public Hearing about the Board's adoption of new proposed rates.** Visit [tcwd.ca.gov](http://tcwd.ca.gov) to view the Notice of Public Hearing and the calculations supporting the proposed rates within the draft Cost of Service Study Report.

**JUNE 29, 2023**

**5:30 P.M.**

**TCWD Administration Building**  
32003 Dove Canyon Drive  
Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679

TCWD sets rates and charges in an open, public process with multiple opportunities for customer input. Since June 2022, TCWD has held five Special Board Meetings related to the rate study in addition to monthly Regular Board Meetings and the Water Awareness Day community festival.

### PUBLIC MEETINGS ON RATE STUDY

- November 21, 2002, Special Board Meeting
- December 7, 2022, Special Board Meeting
- February 28, 2023, Special Board Meeting
- March 28, 2023, Special Board Meeting
- April 11, 2023, Special Board Meeting
- June 29, 2023, Special Board Meeting/Public Hearing (Pending)

