## **RESOLUTION 2025-03**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BEAUMONT-CHERRY VALLEY WATER DISTRICT OF INTENT TO INCREASE WATER RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE USERS OF THE DISTRICT'S WATER SERVICES AND SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District is obligated by state law to establish rates and set charges sufficient to cover operating expenses, including interest on debts, and to provide funds for replacement or construction of facilities; and

WHEREAS, without additional revenue, the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District will not have sufficient resources to sustain operations, pay debt, perform preventative maintenance, and fund capital improvements necessary to ensure reliable, secure and adequate water supply to its residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency has fixed a charge for imported water necessary for recharge of the Beaumont Basin and crucial to BCVWD customers both current and future, normally a pass-through charge to customers; and

WHEREAS, Southern California Edison has increased its rates and charges for electric energy necessary to produce and supply water to BCVWD customers, normally a pass-through charge to customers; and

WHEREAS, the District contracted with Water Resources Economics (WRE) to produce a financial plan and a cost of services study to evaluate current costs and revenue, and to quantify and prioritize the District's maintenance and capital improvement needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed rates will ensure the health and safety of the community while assuring the District's financial health, an obligation of its Board,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District Board of Directors and ordered as follows:

- 1. The Board of Directors hereby initiates proceedings to adopt the water rates and service charges recommended by the 2024 Water Rate Study Report; and
- The Board of Directors hereby fixes the date of April 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the
  District Administrative Office, 560 Magnolia Avenue, Beaumont, CA 92223 as the
  time and place of the Public Hearing on the proposed water rates and service
  charges;
- 3. The Recording Secretary is hereby instructed to provide notice of the proposed water rates and service charges in conformity with Proposition 218;
- 4. At the Public Hearing, the Board of Directors shall consider all valid objections or protests, if any, to the proposed water rates and service charges in conformance with the attached Protest Procedures (Exhibit A);

5. At the Public Hearing, the Board of Directors shall consider and respond to any written challenges submitted by the deadline per the requirements of AB 2557.

ADOPTED this 12 day of February 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: Hoffman, Williams, Slawson, Covington NOES: Ramirez

ABSTAIN: ABSENT:

Director Daniel Slawson, President of the

Board of Directors of the

Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

ATTEST:

Director Andy Ramirez, Secretary to the

Board of Directors of the

Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

James Markman, Legal Counsel

To the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

Attachment: Exhibit A - Protest Procedures

## **EXHIBIT A**

## **Protest Procedures**

Written protests will be accepted in person or by regular mail at the BCVWD District Office, 560 Magnolia Avenue, Beaumont, CA 92223 during office hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Emailed or faxed protests will NOT be accepted. The content of the written protest should include:

- Printed name of protestor
- Clear indication that the document is a protest
- Residence or Business address and/or Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) within the BCVWD's service area
- Signature of Protestor

The term "Property Owner", and/or "Customer" as used in this Notice includes any affected person or entity that has a right to lawful possession and/or occupancy of property and who is responsible for payment of water service charges.

Any Property Owner, and/or Customer may appear at the Public Hearing and orally protest the proposed rate increases, or submit to the District, at any time before the end of the Public Hearing, a written protest against the proposed rate increases. Oral protests will not qualify as a protest unless accompanied by a written protest.

Any Property Owner, and/or Customer may submit a protest. Only one protest per address/parcel will be accepted. Protests received prior to the Public Hearing will be opened and tallied. Copies of protests received prior to close of business on April 23, 2025 will be available at the Public Hearing.

For further information or to withdraw a protest, contact Recording Secretary Lynda Kerney at (951) 845-9581. A letter of withdrawal may be required.

To be counted, any written protest must be received by the District <u>not later than the end of the Public Hearing</u>. Protest tabulation will be finalized at the close of the Public Hearing on April 24, 2025.

A majority written protest to the proposed rate increases will exist if, at the end of the Public Hearing, there are written protests submitted by a majority (50 percent plus one) of the Property Owners and Customers subject to the proposed rate increases. California law prohibits the District from increasing rates, fees and charges if the majority of the affected Property Owners and Customers file written protests.

If it is manifestly clear that there is not a majority protest, the Recording Secretary will advise the President of the Board that there are insufficient protests to constitute a majority protest without determining the validity of the protests. If the tabulation of protests is close to a majority and requires validation of protests, the Board may continue the matter to a later date after closing public testimony. In such case, protests will be tabulated after the meeting at an announced date and location.

A written protest which includes a basis and reasoning for objection to the proposed rate increase may be filed up to 45 days after notification of the Public Hearing (5 p.m. on April 9, 2025). Failure to timely protest bars any right to challenge the rate increase in a legal proceeding.

At the Public Hearing, the District will respond in writing to any properly submitted written protest.