



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC RATE HEARING

Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 8:00 AM

District Office

**Date:** April 15, 2025

**To:** All Big Sky County Water and Sewer District Customers and Owners

**Re:** Proposed Water and Sewer Rate Increases for Fiscal Years 2025–26 and 2026–27

The District will hold a public hearing to review proposed rate changes for the next two fiscal years on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 8:00 AM, followed by the regular Board meeting at 9:00 AM. If adopted, the new rates will take effect July 1, 2025.

### Water Rate Changes

- Proposed 5%▲ increase across **all tiers and base rate** to support service costs and encourage conservation. Volumetric Charges (per 1,000 gallons).

Residential & Comm. Charge Type	Current Rates	2025/26	2026/27
Water Base Charge/Quarter	\$70.20	\$73.71	\$77.40
Tier 1 (0-20K Gallons/Quarter)	\$3.97	\$4.17	\$4.38
Tier 2 (20-40K Gallons/Quarter)	\$5.94	\$6.24	\$6.55
Tier 3 (40-60K Gallons/Quarter)	\$8.34	\$8.76	\$9.20
Tier 4 (>60K Gallons/Quarter)	\$11.67	\$12.26	\$12.86

- Wholesale:** \$4.81 per 1,000 gallons
- Bulk (fire hydrant):** \$15.75 per 1,000 gallons
- Reuse Water (non-potable):** \$1.05 per 1,000 gallons (flat) + base charge same as potable

### Sewer Rate Changes

- Proposed 10%▲ increase in **base charges**
- Proposed 3%▲ increase in **volumetric charges**

Charge Type	Current Rates	2025/26	2026/27
Sewer Base Charge/Quarter	\$112.71	\$123.99	\$136.38
Residential/Condo Volumetric	\$9.16	\$9.43	\$9.71
Commercial Volumetric	\$9.60	\$9.89	\$10.19
Flat Rate Sewer (SFE/Qtr.)	\$106.98	\$117.69	\$129.45

For a typical residential customer using 12,500 gallons of water per quarter, the estimated quarterly bill would be approximately **\$125.84 for water** and **\$241.87 for sewer**, totaling **\$367.71 per quarter**. On an annual basis, this amounts to an estimated **\$1,470.84** for combined water and sewer services.

### Vacant Lot Charges

- **Water:** \$30.87/quarter (5%▲ increase)
- **Sewer:** \$32.97/quarter (10%▲ increase)

### Tax Reduction Reminder

The District's **Sewer Bond #307 was paid off in July 2023**, significantly lowering the tax levy:

- **2022 Total Levy:** \$1,351,405 (Water + Sewer)
- **2023 Levy:** \$324,033 (Water only)
- Tax Reduction: \$1,027,373

The remaining water debt (Bond #306) will be paid off by **2027**.

### Revenue Planning

New treatment plant debt is being funded through **revenue bonds**.

Resort Tax District is contributing **\$27 million** through **2029**.

Starting **2030**, bond payments will be fully funded through District rates.

Our current operating expenses exceed our revenues, these rate increases are the District's effort to make up this shortfall.

The proposed rate increases are expected to generate **\$422,000** in additional annual revenue.

### Learn More & Submit Comments

Visit [www.bigskywatersewer.com](http://www.bigskywatersewer.com) for detailed information.

Submit written comments before the hearing:

- **Email:** [billing@wsd363.com](mailto:billing@wsd363.com) (Subject: "Rate Hearing Comments")
- **Mail:** PO Box 160670, Big Sky, MT 59716

Thank you for supporting the continued delivery of safe, reliable water and sewer services to our community.