

CITY OF TULELAKE

Notice of Public Hearing and Proposed Utility Rate Changes Solid Waste · Water · Wastewater

PUBLIC HEARING

Date: June 16, 2026

Time: 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard

Location: City Hall, 591 Main Street, Tulelake, California 96134

For information: (530) 667-5522 · www.cityoftulelake.com

The City of Tulelake (“City”) is proposing to increase rates for its Solid Waste (garbage and recycling), Water, and Wastewater utility services for Fiscal Years 2026-27 through 2030-31. This notice is required by Proposition 218 (California Constitution, Article XIII D, Section 6) and is being mailed to you because the Siskiyou County Assessor’s records identify you as the record owner of a parcel served by one or more of the City’s utility systems. Tenants who are directly liable for payment of a City utility account also have rights under this notice and may submit a written protest.

If adopted, the proposed new rates will take effect on June 22, 2026, with annual adjustments each June 20th thereafter through 2031, in amounts set forth in the rate tables below. All five years of rates are set by this single proceeding; annual adjustments in Years 2–5 do not require a new Proposition 218 hearing but do require a separate 30-day advance notice to customers before each year’s rates take effect, as required by Government Code Section 53756.

The full Rate Study is available for public inspection at City Hall and at www.cityoftulelake.com.

WHY RATE UPDATES ARE NEEDED

The City’s solid waste, water, and wastewater systems are enterprise funds — funded entirely by customer rates, with no support from taxes or the General Fund. Rates were last adjusted in June 20, 2019. Since then, operating costs have increased materially:

- **Rising operating costs:** Wages, benefits, electricity, chemicals, insurance, and contracted services have all increased significantly.
- **Water system capital improvements:** A significant capital project is required to maintain safe, reliable water service.
- **Wastewater infrastructure:** Permit compliance and infrastructure maintenance require capital investment.
- **Siskiyou County gate fees:** Solid waste disposal costs are tied to Siskiyou County transfer station fees, which have increased and are passed through directly.

Without these rate increases, the utility enterprise funds will not generate sufficient revenue to cover the cost of daily operations. Reserves would be depleted and the City’s ability to maintain reliable utility services would be jeopardized.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOUR BILL

The table below shows the estimated monthly impact for a typical residential customer receiving all three services. Your actual impact will depend on your specific service level, meter size, and water usage.

Service	Current Monthly	Proposed June 22, 2026	Monthly Change
Solid Waste (G1 curbside + gate fee)	\$27.75	\$32.50	+\$4.75 (+17%)
Water (avg residential, base charge only)	\$29.76	\$37.00	+\$7.24 (+24%)
Wastewater (S1 residential standard)	\$45.00	\$54.50	+\$9.50 (+21%)
Combined Monthly Total	\$102.51	\$124.00	+\$21.49 (+21%)

To estimate the impact on your specific account, contact the City at (530) 667-5522 or visit www.cityoftulelake.com.

HOW YOUR BILL IS CALCULATED

Solid Waste: A flat monthly service charge based on container size and collection frequency, plus a separate Siskiyou County gate fee pass-through per account.

Water: A fixed monthly base service charge (based on meter size) plus a volumetric usage charge per hundred cubic feet (hcf) of water used above the 3,500 cubic foot per month included allowance.

Wastewater: A fixed monthly service charge based on customer class. Residential customers pay a flat rate; commercial rates vary by classification.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

For questions about this notice or the proposed rates, contact the City of Tulelake:

<p>City of Tulelake 591 Main Street, Tulelake, CA 96134 Phone: (530) 667-5522 www.cityoftulelake.com Mon–Thurs, 8:00a.m.–5:00p.m. Closed 12:00p.m.-1:00p.m. & Fridays</p>	<p>The 2026 Consolidated Utility Rate Study is available for public inspection at City Hall and at www.cityoftulelake.com throughout the notice period.</p> <p>General questions and email comments are welcome but are not counted as formal Proposition 218 written protests or AB 2257 written objections. See the legal notice below for formal procedures.</p>
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— LEGAL NOTICE — NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS AND CUSTOMERS OF RECORD —

This notice is furnished by the City of Tulelake (“City”) pursuant to: (1) California Constitution, Article XIII D, Section 6(a)(1) (Proposition 218); (2) Government Code sections 53750–53756 (the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act); and (3) Government Code section 53759.1 (Assembly Bill 2257, effective January 1, 2025). It is mailed to the record owner of each parcel within the City’s utility service area as shown on the last equalized assessment roll of Siskiyou County. Tenants who are directly liable for payment of a City utility account (“Customer of Record”) also have protest rights under Government Code section 53755(b).

The 2026 Consolidated Utility Rate Study — Solid Waste, Water, and Wastewater (April 2026) (“Rate Study”) documents the cost-of-service basis for the proposed rates and is incorporated herein by reference. The Rate Study is available at City Hall and at [CITY WEBSITE URL].

PROPOSED RATE SCHEDULES — ALL FIVE YEARS (GOV. CODE § 53756)

Pursuant to Government Code section 53756, the City is adopting a five-year schedule of rates for all three utility services through a single Proposition 218 proceeding. The rates for all five fiscal years are shown below and are proposed to be adopted simultaneously. Year 1 rates are effective June 22, 2026. Years 2–5 (FY 2027-28 through FY 2030-31) reflect a 3% annual escalation. Pursuant to Government Code section 53756(d), customers will receive a separate 30-day advance notice before each annual adjustment in Years 2–5 takes effect. No additional Proposition 218 protest hearing is required for Years 2–5 unless the adopted rate formula is changed.

SOLID WASTE — Proposed Five-Year Rate Schedule (Monthly)

Rate Class / Service	Current	FY 26-27 (Yr 1)	FY 27-28 (Yr 2)	FY 28-29 (Yr 3)	FY 29-30 (Yr 4)	FY 30-31 (Yr 5)
G1 — Residential Curbside (monthly)	\$19.00	\$23.00	\$23.69	\$24.40	\$25.13	\$25.88
GD — Mixed Residential/Commercial (monthly)	\$19.00	\$23.00	\$23.69	\$24.40	\$25.13	\$25.88
1YD Dumpster — 1x/week (monthly)	\$46.08	\$56.00	\$57.68	\$59.41	\$61.19	\$63.03
1YD Dumpster — 2x/week (monthly)	\$53.02	\$64.00	\$65.92	\$67.90	\$69.94	\$72.04
2YD Dumpster — 1x/week (monthly)	\$93.12	\$113.00	\$116.39	\$119.88	\$123.48	\$127.18
2YD Dumpster — 2x/week (monthly)	\$145.40	\$176.00	\$181.28	\$186.72	\$192.32	\$198.09
Gate Fee — Residential (per acct/month)	\$8.75	\$9.50	\$9.79	\$10.08	\$10.38	\$10.69
Gate Fee — Dumpster (per pickup)	\$5.50	\$6.00	\$6.18	\$6.37	\$6.56	\$6.75
Annual Escalator — Years 2–5	—	—	3% per year	3% per year	3% per year	3% per year

WATER — Proposed Five-Year Rate Schedule (Monthly)

Rate Component	Current	FY 26-27 (Yr 1)	FY 27-28 (Yr 2)	FY 28-29 (Yr 3)	FY 29-30 (Yr 4)	FY 30-31 (Yr 5)
BASE SERVICE CHARGE (monthly, all connections)						
Inside City — W1 (all classes)	\$29.76	\$37.00	\$38.11	\$39.25	\$40.43	\$41.64
Outside City — W2	\$29.76	\$38.00	\$39.14	\$40.31	\$41.52	\$42.77
VOLUMETRIC CHARGE (per hcf above 3,500 cf/mo inside and 1,000 outside free allowance)						
Inside City — W1	\$0.70/hcf	\$0.90/hcf	\$0.93/hcf	\$0.96/hcf	\$0.99/hcf	\$1.02/hcf
Outside City — W2	\$0.70/hcf	\$0.90/hcf	\$0.93/hcf	\$0.96/hcf	\$0.99/hcf	\$1.02/hcf
Annual Escalator — Years 2–5	—	—	3% per year	3% per year	3% per year	3% per year

WASTEWATER — Proposed Five-Year Rate Schedule (Monthly)

Rate Class	Current	FY 26-27 (Yr 1)	FY 27-28 (Yr 2)	FY 28-29 (Yr 3)	FY 29-30 (Yr 4)	FY 30-31 (Yr 5)
STANDARD INSIDE-CITY						
S1 — Residential Standard	\$45.00	\$54.50	\$56.14	\$57.82	\$59.56	\$61.34
S1 — Commercial Standard	\$112.50	\$136.00	\$140.08	\$144.28	\$148.61	\$153.07
S2 — Commercial Usage-Based	\$64.02	\$78.00	\$80.34	\$82.75	\$85.23	\$87.79
S3 — Commercial / FR	\$59.93	\$73.00	\$75.19	\$77.45	\$79.77	\$82.17
SATELLITE CLASSES (SD)						
SD — Residential	\$48.32	\$59.00	\$60.77	\$62.59	\$64.47	\$66.40
SD — Commercial	\$45.00	\$54.50	\$56.14	\$57.82	\$59.56	\$61.34
SD — Multi-Family (per unit/month)	\$26.25	\$32.00	\$32.96	\$33.95	\$34.97	\$36.02
SPECIAL RATE CLASSES						
SE — Reclassified to S1	\$39.49	\$48.00	\$49.44	\$50.92	\$52.45	\$54.02
SM — Residential	\$30.00	\$36.50	\$37.60	\$38.72	\$39.88	\$41.08
SO — Outside Commercial	\$252.83	\$307.00	\$316.21	\$325.70	\$335.47	\$345.53
Annual Escalator — Years 2–5	—	—	3% per year	3% per year	3% per year	3% per year

To calculate the proposed fee for your parcel: identify your rate class and service level from the applicable table above. If you are unsure of your rate class, contact the City at (530) 667-5522.

BASIS FOR PROPOSED RATES — PROPOSITION 218 SUBSTANTIVE REQUIREMENTS (ART. XIII D § 6(B))

The proposed rates comply with all substantive requirements of Proposition 218. The Rate Study documents that:

- (1) Revenues** derived from the proposed fees will not exceed the funds required to provide the applicable utility service. (Art. XIII D § 6(b)(1))
- (2) Revenues** will not be used for any purpose other than the utility service for which the fee is imposed. (Art. XIII D § 6(b)(2))
- (3) The** amount of each fee does not exceed the proportional cost of service attributable to the parcel. (Art. XIII D § 6(b)(3))
- (4) Each** fee is imposed only for services that are actually used by, or immediately available to, the owner of the parcel. Fees based on potential or future use are not permitted. (Art. XIII D § 6(b)(4))
- (5) No** fee is applicable to parcels not subject to the applicable utility service. (Art. XIII D § 6(b)(5))

WRITTEN PROTEST PROCEDURES — ALL THREE UTILITIES (ART. XIII D § 6(A); GOV. CODE § 53755)

Any record owner of a parcel subject to the proposed fees, or tenant directly liable for payment of a City utility account (“Customer of Record”), may submit a written protest against the proposed rate increase for any or all of the three utilities. If written protests are filed by a majority of the record owners of parcels subject to a proposed fee (50% + 1 parcels), the City Council shall not impose that rate increase. A majority protest against one utility’s rates does not affect the other utilities.

To be counted, a written protest must include all of the following:

- (1)** A clearly stated opposition to the proposed rate adjustment for one or more of the following: solid waste, water, and/or wastewater service charges;
- (2)** The name of the record property owner or Customer of Record submitting the protest;
- (3) Identification** of the parcel by street address or assessor parcel number (APN); and
- (4) The** original signature and legibly printed name of the record property owner or Customer of Record.

Additional rules:

- Only one written protest per parcel will be counted, regardless of the number of owners or co-owners who submit protests. If both an owner and a tenant submit protests for the same parcel, only one will be counted. (Gov. Code § 53755(b))
- Oral comments, emails, and faxes will not be counted as written protests.
- A written protest may be withdrawn at any time before the close of the public hearing.
- Protests received after the close of the public hearing will not be counted.
- The City Clerk will maintain all written protests for a minimum of two years following the hearing date.

Where to submit written protests:

<p>By Mail (must be received, not postmarked, by close of hearing): City Clerk, City of Tulelake PO Box 847 Tulelake, CA 96134</p>	<p>In Person: To: City Clerk’s, Tulelake City Hall 591 Main Street, Tulelake, CA 96134 During regular business hours Monday through Thursday, 8:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. and 1:00p.m. – 5:00 p.m., or at the public hearing before the hearing closes.</p>
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WRITTEN OBJECTION PROCEDURES — WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES ONLY

IMPORTANT — PRESERVING YOUR RIGHT TO CHALLENGE WATER OR WASTEWATER RATES IN COURT:
Under Assembly Bill 2257 (Government Code section 53759.1, effective January 1, 2025), if you intend to challenge the proposed water or wastewater rate increases in a judicial proceeding, you must submit a timely written objection to the City by the deadline shown below. A written objection is a separate and additional requirement from a written protest. Failure to submit a timely written objection specifying the legal grounds for your challenge will prohibit you from bringing a judicial action or proceeding alleging noncompliance with Article XIII D of the California Constitution for the proposed water or wastewater rates. This AB 2257 requirement does not apply to the proposed solid waste rates.

Submitting a written objection is separate from and in addition to submitting a written protest. You may submit both.

WRITTEN OBJECTION DEADLINE — WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES ONLY
12:00 p.m. on June 11, 2026

To be valid, a written objection for water or wastewater rates must include all of the following:

- (1)** Be in writing, with the printed name and original signature of the record property owner or Customer of Record. Emails may be accepted if they contain adequate proof of authenticity, such as a verifiable digital signature.
- (2)** A statement that the communication constitutes a written objection under Government Code section 53759.1.
- (3)** Identification of the parcel by street address or assessor parcel number (APN).
- (4)** A description of the specific grounds for the objection with sufficient detail to allow the City to respond in writing. The objection must: (a) identify the specific legal provision alleged to be violated (statute, constitutional provision, regulation, or case law); (b) state the specific facts supporting the allegation; and (c) state the desired resolution or outcome. A general statement that the rates “violate Proposition 218” without specific legal and factual grounds is not sufficient to constitute a valid written objection.

Where to submit written objections (Water and Wastewater only):

<p>By Mail or In Person (must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the deadline above): City Clerk, City of Tulelake PO Box 847, 591 Main Street Tulelake, California 96134</p>	<p>A written objection form is available at: City Hall, 591 Main Street, Tulelake, CA 96134 During regular business hours, Monday–Thursday. www.cityoftulelake.com</p>
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City’s Written Response to Objections:

The City will review all timely written objections and provide a written response to each prior to the close of the public hearing, addressing the specific legal grounds raised and explaining the substantive basis for retaining or modifying the proposed rates. Timely objections and the City’s written responses will be presented to the City Council prior to or during the public hearing and will be part of the administrative record. (Gov. Code § 53759.1(c)(5))

Limitations on Judicial Challenges — Water and Wastewater Rates Only:

Pursuant to Government Code section 53759.1(b), any judicial action challenging the proposed water or wastewater rates is subject to the following limitations:

- (1) Only** a person or entity that has timely submitted a written objection specifying the grounds for the challenge may bring a judicial action. (Gov. Code § 53759.1(b))
- (2) Any** judicial action must be commenced within 120 days of the City Council’s adoption of the rates. (Gov. Code § 53759)
- (3) The** court’s review is limited to the administrative record of the rate proceeding, as defined in Government Code section 53759.2.

PUBLIC HEARING (ART. XIII D § 6(A)(2); GOV. CODE § 53753)

The City Council will hold a public hearing at the date, time, and location shown on the front of this notice. At the public hearing, the City Council will: (a) receive and tabulate all timely written protests; (b) consider all timely written objections and the City’s written responses thereto, for proposed water and wastewater rates; (c) receive oral testimony from the public; and (d) if no majority protest exists for a utility service, consider adoption of the proposed rates for that service.

The City Council may reduce the proposed rates in response to testimony and written materials but may not increase rates beyond those shown in this notice. If adopted, Year 1 rates take effect June 22, 2026. Years 2–5 annual adjustments take effect each June 20th thereafter through 2031, with 30 days advance notice to customers as required by Government Code section 53756(d).

This notice is mailed pursuant to California Constitution, Article XIII D, Section 6(a)(1); Government Code sections 53753, 53755, and 53756; and Government Code section 53759.1 (AB 2257). Date mailed: April 27, 2026.

Para recibir información sobre esta notificación en español, comuníquese con la Oficina del Secretario Municipal al (530) 667-5522.