



Oceanside Water District  
P.O. Box 360 Oceanside, OR 97134  
(503) 842-0370  
owd-oregon.org

Dear Oceanside & Cape Meares Residents,

June 4, 2026

The new fiscal year starts this July, and as you may have noticed, the cost of practically everything is going up. This has resulted in an increase in the cost of supplying the community's drinking water. Accordingly, the Oceanside Water District Board of Commissioners has voted to increase residential water usage rates starting July 1, 2026. To that end, we will be increasing the monthly subscriber rates by 20%. A single-family residence monthly rate will increase from \$90/month to \$108/month. Other classifications of service such as hotels and other commercial users will also increase by 20%.

This decision followed an extensive budget review by our Budget Committee, Board of Commissioners, Water District Manager, and our external accounting firm, Aldrich Advisors. Despite numerous cost-saving steps taken this year to maintain or reduce operational costs, the Budget Committee found the \$18.00 increase necessary to accomplish the District's mission of production and distribution of quality water to the communities of Oceanside and Cape Meares.

**Where is the additional money going?** A significant and ongoing portion of the budget is allocated to paying the remainder of two government loans totaling \$7.2M used to upgrade the water system in 2016. Those upgrades included a new treatment facility for Cape Meares, a complete upgrade and modernization of the Oceanside plant, and a replacement of some of the distribution system, which as a result, deliver some of the highest quality water available to civil municipalities, as well as improved storage and production capacity and decreased water loss. Beyond the general cost of living increase estimate for next year of 3.2% on expenses, the operations and development projects which are critically needed and will have to be funded next year include:

1. Updating our Engineering Master Plan (last updated in 2012) which is required by the OR Health Authority. The estimate for updating our plan is \$30,000.
2. Customer curbside water meters have an expected lifetime of 10 years, and many of our existing meters are at that threshold. The anticipated total cost to replace the meters, which we plan to carry out over the next five years is estimated at \$170,000 for which we will accumulate \$43,000 this next year.
3. Maintenance of Pressure Reducer Valves, which are used to maintain pressure and flow throughout the distribution system. These valves will cost a total of \$10,000.
4. Installation of a new system Oxidation Reduction Potential sensor, a device used to sense the chemical condition of treated water allowing us to optimize the chemicals and treatment process. The cost is \$16,300.
5. Accumulate funds for vehicle replacement of the District's aging diesel pickup truck, which is subject to increasing expensive repairs. We will save up \$20,000 a year over five years which will enable us to purchase a truck capable of performing the type of industrial service we need.

Further, taking note of recent reports of hackers attacking water utilities, we have also spent resources improving the District's cyber security and data monitoring to protect the district from cyber-attacks both foreign and domestic. Increased Federal and State regulations have forced us to make these cyber security upgrades as well as improve our computer-based water quality data collection further protecting public health and safety.

We are committed to providing high quality water at the lowest cost to our communities. We appreciate your ongoing support of the Oceanside Water District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul R. Newman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Paul R. Newman  
Chairman- Board of Commissioners

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christian Anderson". The signature is more stylized and less legible than the one on the left, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Christian Anderson  
District Manager