

**City of Martinez Water District  
Notice of Public Hearing  
Drought Management Plan & Temporary Drought Surcharge Rate Increase**

**Tuesday, July 6, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.  
City Council Chambers  
525 Henrietta St., Martinez CA**

City of Martinez wishes to notify you of a Public Hearing on Tuesday, July 6, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers at the address of 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, at which time testimony will be taken and objections and protests will be received regarding a drought management plan, including temporary drought surcharge pricing adjustments that would result in a temporary increase in water rates (as described below), that is being proposed for approval by the City Council. Public comments and written protests may be submitted to the City of Martinez prior to and at the Public Hearing. Following the Public Hearing, the Council will consider adoption of the City 15% Drought Management Plan (Plan) and approval of an increase in water rates in an amount of \$0.88 per unit (748 gallons) for a temporary period of time.

The Plan is necessary to comply with the Governor of California's Executive Order N-7-22 issued on March 28, 2022, and the resulting Emergency Regulations developed by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The Plan is designed to achieve an overall 15% reduction in water use compared to 2020, as directed by the Executive Order/SWRCB Regulations, by focusing on discretionary outdoor water use. In order to meet the requirements of the Executive Order/SWRCB Regulations, additional costs will be incurred by the City to operate the Plan, including costs associated with higher raw water charges from suppliers, additional temporary personnel, additional services for residents, modifications to the City's billing practices, extra drought supplies and other elements of the Plan. In order to recover some portion of the costs of the Plan, the City proposes to implement a temporary drought surcharge pricing adjustment to signal to customers the need to achieve the prescribed water use reductions. The pricing adjustment will cease upon the lifting of the Governor's Executive Order/SWRCB Regulations. This proposed Plan is the same as that implemented by Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) that also provides treated water to Martinez residents outside the Martinez Water District boundaries. The pricing adjustment will result in an up to \$0.88 per unit (748 gallons) increase in the treated water quantity charge. **Customers who meet their water use reduction target will experience a reduction in their water bill compared to current billing levels, thereby providing an incentive to conserve.** Residential accounts using less than 200 gallons per day (gpd) are considered to be efficient and would be exempt from the pricing adjustment. Even if the temporary pricing

adjustment is approved, there will be a shortfall in revenue as compared to the additional costs of the Plan. The efficiency exemption will not affect the charges being imposed upon non-exempt residents and businesses as it will be imposed at the City's own expense and the extra costs will not be passed on to the City's non-exempt customers. Accordingly, the temporary pricing adjustment being proposed will not result in revenues exceeding costs of operations during the period that it is in effect and will not result in any of the City's customers paying a higher proportion of the Plan costs experienced by the City than that customer's share of the Plan costs being incurred by the City. In fact, at the adjustment rate of \$0.88 per unit, the City estimates that it will still experience a shortfall of roughly \$218,000 for Fiscal Year 2022-23. The City has established a Drought Management Plan webpage to assist customers with getting additional information on the Plan, including water use reduction methods and targets. Go to [www.cityofmartinez.org](http://www.cityofmartinez.org) and click on "Drought Program" to view information related to the Plan, or call (925) 372-3587.

This notice is being provided pursuant to Article XIID, Section 6 of the California Constitution and Government Code Section 53755. Any owner or tenant of property being served by the City water system may submit a written protest to the proposed temporary rate increase before the hearing by sending the written protest to the City Clerk's office, 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, California 94553, or by submitting a written protest at the time of the public hearing. Only one written protest will be counted per parcel. Written protests must include the address or parcel number of the parcel on which behalf the protest is being submitted and the name of the person(s) making the objection.