

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 1, 2019**

ACWD Contact: Sharene Gonzales, Senior Public Affairs Specialist  
Phone: 510.668.4208  
Email: [Sharene.gonzales@acwd.com](mailto:Sharene.gonzales@acwd.com)

## **Alameda County Water District to Hold Public Hearing on Proposed Increase in Water Rates and New Water Shortage Emergency Stage Rates**

**Fremont, Calif.** — The Alameda County Water District Board of Directors will consider a proposed 2-year water rate increase --- 4 percent beginning March 1, 2019 and 4 percent beginning March 1, 2020, to both the bimonthly service charge and water consumption charge. The Board also will consider adopting water shortage emergency stage rates at the public hearing.

For the average residential customer using 16 units of water in a two-month billing cycle, about 200 gallons per day, the proposal would result in an increase of \$2.41 per month in 2019 and \$2.51 in 2020.

To ensure sufficient revenue is available during a water shortage emergency, the Board for the first time will consider adopting “stage rates.” If adopted, these rates would only be implemented in the event of a water emergency.

“It’s tough to tell our customers we need to raise rates but sometimes we have to make the unpopular decision,” said ACWD Board President James Gunther. “We’ve pored over the numbers, cut where we could, and are deferring projects and trimming positions when possible. But, we cannot compromise service and water quality. ”

About a third of the total revenue that ACWD collects will be used to fund critical infrastructure improvements. Employee compensation and benefits are included in the need for rate increases, despite long-term cost-cutting measures the District has made in recent contract negotiations. "Our staffing levels are lean, and we need a skilled workforce to treat and deliver water and services to our customers," Gunther said.

# PRESS RELEASE



The proposed increases and water shortage emergency stage rates comes following financial analyses and six public workshops. Two community meetings were hosted in January in advance of the public hearing.

The Board will take public comment during the public hearing.

**Date/Time:** Thursday, February 7, 2019  
6 p.m.

**Location:** Alameda County Water District Headquarters  
Board Room  
43885 S Grimmer Boulevard  
Fremont, CA 94538

Visit [www.acwd.org/rates](http://www.acwd.org/rates) for more information.

###

For more than 100 years, the Alameda County Water District has supplied water to the residents and businesses of southern Alameda County. ACWD supplies drinking water to the more than 356,000 people living in the cities of Fremont, Newark and Union City. For more information, please visit [www.acwd.org](http://www.acwd.org).