

WESTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

Budget Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

UPDATED: MAY 16, 2022

1. Will the proposed budget impact my bill?

A: No, the proposed budget is sufficiently funded by the existing adopted water and sewer rates. The proposed budget will not impact your bill.

2. What process does Western use to create and approve a budget?

A: The budget process is one that extends over a 9-10 month period of collaborative work between finance staff and every Western department. During the creation of the budget there are multiple meetings to ensure the budget reflects future needs. The budget process concludes with budget workshops open to the public where staff and Western's Board review and discuss the final budget proposal. Then at a regularly scheduled meeting in June, the Board votes on the adoption of a resolution which sets forth the spending authority for the two years of the proposed biennial budget and includes other budget authorities provided to the General Manager.

3. With increased conservation during the drought, will my bill go up?

A: If a customer is meeting the conservation targets and shortage response actions described in the shortage stage adopted by Western's Board of Directors, then a customer's bill will not increase. Western's Water Shortage Contingency Plan was developed in coordination with Western's budget-based rate structure. If a customer exceeds their budget (using water in Tiers 3 and 4), a customer could experience a drought fine added to their bill. The fine amount depends on the water shortage stage in effect and the degree a customer exceeds their indoor/outdoor budget. If a customer is within their water budget, they are encouraged to continue voluntary conservation efforts and would not experience a Drought Fine unless a Stage 5 or higher stage is adopted and a customer does not meet their shortage response actions and conservation targets. Those customers without water budgets could receive a Drought Fine if they do not reduce water consumption compared to their usage in the previous year. The amount of reduction required depends on the water shortage stage enacted. A customer can learn more details about Western's current shortage stage and the drought fines by visiting www.wmwd.com/wscp.

4. How can the public learn about Western's Board of Director activities concerning the proposed budget?

A: Customers can learn about the proposed budget by visiting, wmwd.com/budget.

This Western web page will be updated regularly. Customers can also subscribe for email alerts about upcoming Board meetings and workshops, which are promoted through Western's newsletter, bill inserts, social media and in-person activities. The public can also stay connected through Western's social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube. Customers are encouraged to contact staff directly at 951.571.7119 or email outreach@wmwd.com.

5. When will the proposed budget be reviewed and voted on by the Board of Directors?

A: The proposed biennial budget for fiscal years 2022-23 and 2023-24 will be discussed and reviewed during public budget workshops and a regular Board meeting. To access meeting materials including agendas and presentations, visit wmwd.com/BoardMeeting.

- Budget Workshop No .1: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.
- Budget Workshop No. 2: Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.
- Regular Board Meeting to consider budget adoption: Wednesday, June 1 at 9:30 a.m.

6. Will the information presented during the Board workshops and regularly scheduled Board meeting be available prior to the meeting?

A: Yes. To access meeting materials including agendas and presentations, visit wmwd.com/BoardMeeting.

7. How long does a customer have to speak at a Board meeting or workshop?

A: Our standard policy is that each speaker has 3 minutes. Note: 3 minutes is the standard for most agencies in Riverside County, though depending on the issue and the number of anticipated speakers, this can change. If you have a comment that may extend beyond the 3 minutes, you are encouraged to submit your input in writing by 4:30 p.m. the day before the meeting to boardsecretary@wmwd.com or wmwd.com/PublicComment.