



WASHINGTON COUNTY  
WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

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**WASHINGTON COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**  
**RAISES MUNICIPAL CONTRACT WHOLESALE RATE**  
***\$0.10 per 1,000 gallons of water to fund cost increases in operation and maintenance***

Washington County Water Conservancy District's Board of Trustees voted in favor of raising the district's municipal contract wholesale rate from \$0.84 to \$0.94 per 1,000 gallons of water at its May 31, 2016 public hearing. The increase, which will go into effect on July 1, 2016, only applies to water sold by the district directly to the cities.

If the cities transfer the rate increase to the water user, the typical primary residential water user in St. George will see an average monthly rate increase of approximately \$0.96.<sup>1</sup>

Revenues from the increase will be used exclusively to cover the costs to treat and deliver water; it will not be used to fund current or future projects.

Since the district's last rate increase in March 2008, water sales have increased 30 percent, utility costs have increased 6 percent and the weighted cost of treatment chemicals has increased 32 percent.

"As a not-for-profit public water provider, our rates reflect our costs and are not market driven," said Ed Bowler, chairman of the district's board. "We've been able to maximize our production and streamline efficiencies within our existing system to delay rate increases, but higher operating costs are necessitating an adjustment."

Washington County's municipal culinary residential water rates currently range from approximately \$1.72 to \$2.45 per 1,000 gallons,<sup>2</sup> which is lower than other cities in the western United States.<sup>3</sup>

The district remains committed to providing water to its municipal customers at the lowest rate possible without compromising its product or system performance.

***Washington County Water Conservancy District*** is a not-for-profit public agency established in 1962 to manage Southern Utah's regional water needs. The district oversees the development, stabilization, management, acquisition and conservation of water resources in Washington County in an ongoing effort to provide a safe, reliable water supply for current and future generations. Visit [www.wcwcd.org](http://www.wcwcd.org) for more information.

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<sup>1</sup> Rate based on average monthly water use of 14,823 gallons with the district providing 65 percent of the supply, consistent with the City of St. George's 2015 billing data.

<sup>2</sup> January 2015 rates based on 30,000 gallons of use in a 30-day period for a single-family residential home with the smallest meter size (3/4" or less).

<sup>3</sup> By comparison, using the same conditions specified above in footnote 1, the average water rate is \$2.58 in Albuquerque, \$3.82 in Phoenix, \$4.03 in Las Vegas, \$4.72 in Denver, \$9.42 in Tucson and \$10.04 in San Diego.