



PANOCHÉ WATER DISTRICT

52027 West Althea Ave, Firebaugh, CA 93622 – (209) 364-6136 – panochedrainage.specialdistrict.org

March 19, 2026

Subject: Panoche Water District Operations & Maintenance Rate – Notice and Opportunity to Protest

Dear Landowners,

On March 10, 2026, the Panoche Water District Board of Directors adopted the District’s FY 26-27 Budget. As part of that process, the Board approved, subject to the requirements of Article XIII D of the California Constitution, imposing a water service fee to fund the District’s activities, which the District identifies as a “Operations & Maintenance Rate”.

The Proposed Operations & Maintenance Rate is composed of a Water Service Fee and a Land based Charge:

Proposed 2026-2027 Water Service Fee: \$86.50 per acre-foot of water

2025-2026 Water Service Fee: \$83.00 per acre-foot of water

Proposed 2026-2027 Land-Based Charge: \$11.25 per acre

2025-2026 Land-Based Charge: \$9.21 per acre

Currently, the District funds all its activities through the Operations & Maintenance Rate and plans to fund its activities for the 2026-2027 fiscal year through the Operations & Maintenance Rate.

In accordance with the requirements of Article XIII D of the California Constitution, known generally as “Proposition 218”, the Board will hold a public hearing on the Proposed operations & Maintenance Rate. The Board will hold this public hearing at 10:00 am on May 12, 2026. At that time, the Proposed Operations & Maintenance Rate will go into effect unless a majority of owners of the identified parcels submit written protests before the close of the public hearing on May 12, 2026. If the Proposed Operations & Maintenance Rate does not pass the protest hearing, the District will refund the difference between any fees paid for the 2026-27 fiscal year and the amount of the 2025-26 Operations & Maintenance Rate.

Enclosed with this notice is a protest form to indicate whether you, as the landowner subject to the Proposed Operations & Maintenance Rate, oppose the Operations & Maintenance Rate. Please refer to the form and carefully follow the instructions provided on the form.

Sincerely,

Patrick McGowan
General Manager



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PROPOSED 2026-2027 Operations & Maintenance Rate

OFFICIAL PROTEST FORM

By signing below, I OPPOSE the Panoche Water District's Proposed 2026-2027 Operations & Maintenance Rate.

Date:

Signature:

If applicable. check the box below. Please write/print legibly.

By checking this box, I certify I am the Landowner or the Landowner's legal representative of the following APN or Address.

Name:

APN

Address:

Provide the Name and Address as it appears (not a post office box).

Instructions and Requirements

- This Form can be downloaded from: <https://panochewd.specialdistrict.org/>
- Landowners within Panoche Water District may file a written protest against the Proposed 2026-2027 Operations & Maintenance Rate at the Protest Hearing scheduled on May 12, 2026, at 10:00 am.
- Written protests must be filed no later than the close of the Protest Hearing to be considered.
- This form must be completely filled out, dated, and received during the Official Protest Period, which begins on March 19, 2026, and ends on May 12, 2026, at the close of the Protest Hearing.
- This form must either be received in the Panoche Water District office by mail or delivered in person prior to the close of the Protest Hearing.
- The Panoche Water District mailing address is 52027 West Althea Ave, Firebaugh, CA 93622.
- Written protests cannot be accepted by fax or email.
- Written protests that have been filed may also be withdrawn at the Landowner's request prior to the close of the Protest Hearing.