



# Alleghany County Water District

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## Customer update July 5, 2022

### Status of water tank repair

For background information please refer to the May 2, 2022 update.

The on-site inspection of the water tank was FINALLY conducted by representatives of the California Rural Water Association (CRWA) and a private water tank inspection company CSI on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The inspection report, including recommendations for the best remedy should be forthcoming in the next week or so.

Once the onsite inspection was done, we got the “green-light” for a temporary patch job on the tank to put it back in service through fire season. We immediately contacted the contractor and requested that they do just that. Keep in mind that the main contractor BRCO Constructors utilized a sub-contractor Thompson Tank for the actual tank construction. A third party, Columbia tank (the tank manufacturer) is also involved. Three weeks of back-and-forth correspondence ensued between ACWD, the contractor, CRWA and our State Division of Drinking Water Engineer. The contractor was pushing to see the inspection report first. In the end they were finally convinced to patch the tank so that it could be filled. A crew from Thompson tank came and patched the tank on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

ACWD staff then commenced the task of cleaning and prepping the tank to fill it. The initial filling of the tank began on June 30<sup>th</sup>. It takes several days to fill. (The time varies depending on customer water demand) The process for putting the tank back in service is to fill it, shock it with chlorine, drain it about half-way, fill it again, check the chlorine level and take a water sample for bacteria to the lab. THEN if the water test result is OK the tank can be put back in service.

ACWD decided to leave the tank full until after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday weekend in case of a fire. As of today, July 5<sup>th</sup> the tank is being partially drained for the refill. If all goes as planned, the sample will be taken to the lab on Thursday July 7<sup>th</sup>.

In an abundance of caution our State Division of Drinking Water Engineer was consulted today to see if there are any other water tests that could be done to ensure the safety of the water. Based upon the fact that all the materials used in the tank meet national drinking water standards, there really aren't any other tests to take. While the presence of some rust may cause a noticeable taste, it does not pose a health risk.

***The tank inspection report will be made available on the district's website and hard copies will be placed in the box at the post office once it is received.***

***We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we work through the situation.***

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## **New water rates in effect**

On June 28<sup>th</sup> ACWD completed the state mandated Proposition 218 process for water rate changes. Only one protest letter was received out of the 27 needed to kill the proposal.

We appreciate the community's understanding that the rate change is necessary.

The new rates officially went into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup> and will be reflected on the August 1<sup>st</sup> water bills.

**A normal monthly water bill with no use overage will be \$44 starting next month.**

The flat rate for late payments remains 10%. (Changes from \$4.00 to \$4.40 for first month late)

### **New Rates Detail:**

Monthly flat rate per service \$44.00 includes up to 8,000 gallons of water.

Usage over 8,000 gallons to be billed at \$4.00 per thousand gallons (.004 per gallon).

Effective 7/1/23 flat rate increases by .75 to \$44.75 (no change to gallons or overage fees)

Effective 7/1/24 flat rate increases by .75 to \$45.50 (no change to gallons or overage fees)

Effective 7/1/25 flat rate increases by .75 to \$46.25 (no change to gallons or overage fees)

### **Water bill assistance available to customers**

Please be aware that Allegheny County Water District (ACWD) does offer payment plans if you get behind on your water bill. Please see our website for more information

<https://www.alleghanywater.org/customer-service>

Additionally, the State is rolling out the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), administered through the California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD), and is scheduled to begin this month. ACWD has applied to participate in this program. For more information on LIHWAP and to learn more about the eligibility requirements, visit their website at: [www.csd.ca.gov/waterbill](http://www.csd.ca.gov/waterbill).