

# PINERY PIPELINE



*From your board of directors*

The Pinery Water and Wastewater District is proposing to modify both water and wastewater rates for 2021. The proposed rates are revenue neutral for the District - meaning the District does not anticipate additional revenue from modifying the rates. Then why do it? The current water rate has six tiers or blocks of increasing rates. The first tier starts at \$2.58 per thousand gallons for the first 5 thousand gallons of water usage and the sixth-tier charges \$16.78 for every thousand gallons over 60 thousand gallons of water usage each month. The current District Board felt that the sixth tier was disproportionate compared to other tiers. Keep in mind the upper tiers are designed to discourage water usage and promote water conservation.

Most customers will not see an increase in their monthly bill. Only customers that use between 50 thousand gallons and 64 thousand gallons will see a monthly bill increase of \$0.24 to \$24.30. Customers who use over this amount will see a decrease in their monthly water bills from \$5.75 to upwards of \$200.00 for a customer who uses 100 thousand gallons of water per month.

On the wastewater side, the District Board is proposing to use a two-tier system for a monthly wastewater charge. The change will base future wastewater rates on a customer's Average Winter Quarter (AWQ) water usage (December – February). Why are we making this change? Some of the same principles discussed above apply - discourage water usage and promote water conservation. It also costs the District more per month to treat a higher volume of wastewater from a customer. The current residential monthly wastewater rate of \$42.92 is changing to \$36.75 for customers that use less than 5 thousand gallons average per month during December – February. For customers that use more than 5 thousand gallons average per month during December – February, their monthly wastewater rate will be \$53.99 per month for the year.

In this case, using less water during the December – February months saves on your monthly water bill but also can save you \$206.88 per year. Saving enough water to get into the lower tier might be as simple as turning water off while brushing teeth, taking shorter showers or using your dishwasher instead of hand washing. To see where you stand on winter water usage check your current bill. It will show you your monthly usage.



**Terry Franklin, Director  
Pinery Water and Wastewater District  
Board of Directors**

**Please join us at our District Office for our monthly held Board Meetings at 6:30pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.**

**Upcoming Board Meetings will still be held at 6:30pm on: Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020**  
*(\*this meeting will be a digital meeting, please see meeting notice for information on joining the meeting by internet.)*  
**Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2020**

Residential Water Rates	Current 2020 Rate	Proposed 2021 Rate
<b>Base Rate, \$ per Month</b>	\$29.22	\$29.22
<b>Water Project Fee, \$ per Month</b>	\$12.50	\$12.50
<b>Usage Rate, \$ per k/gal</b>		
Tier 1: 0-5 k/gal	\$2.58	\$2.58
Tier 2: 6-20 k/gal	\$3.74	\$3.74
Tier 3: 20-30 k/gal	\$4.71	\$4.71
Tier 4: 30-50 k/gal	\$6.13	\$6.13
Tier 5: 50-60 k/gal	\$8.36	\$10.79
Tier 6: over 60 k/gal	\$16.80	\$10.79

# Freezing Weather Maintenance Checklist

### ✓ To-do List

- Prevent Frozen Pipes  
DisasterSafety.org/freezing\_weather/prevent-frozen-pipes/
- Reduce Ice Dam Risks  
DisasterSafety.org/freezing\_weather/preventing-ice-dams-on-homes/
- Prevent Roof Collapse on Homes  
DisasterSafety.org/freezing\_weather/prevent-roof-collapse/
- Installing Weather Stripping & Seals  
DisasterSafety.org/freezing\_weather/installing-weather-stripping-seals/

**Additional winter weather resources are available at [DisasterSafety.org/freezing\\_weather](http://DisasterSafety.org/freezing_weather)**

Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety®

## Are Your Pipes Ready for Winter?!

Winter is fast approaching and each year the District receives calls from homeowners with no water due to freezing. Here are some tips to help prevent and thaw frozen pipes at home.

### How to Prevent Frozen Pipes

- Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals up out of the reach of children.
- When the weather is very cold outside, let the cold-water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe - even at a trickle - helps prevent pipes from freezing.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55° F.



We will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 25 in celebration of the holidays.

We will also be closed on Friday, Jan. 1, 2021 to celebrate the New Year.

Please call our After Hours line at (303)841-2797 for emergencies.

**From all of us at the Pinery Water & Wastewater District ~ Have a safe and happy holiday season!**

### How to Thaw Frozen Pipes

- If you turn on a faucet and only a trickle comes out, suspect a frozen pipe. Likely places for frozen pipes include against exterior walls or where your water service enters your home through the foundation.
- Keep the faucet open. As you treat the frozen pipe and the frozen area begins to melt, water will begin to flow through the frozen area. Running water through the pipe will help melt ice in the pipe.
- Apply heat to the section of pipe using an electric heating pad wrapped around the pipe, an electric hair dryer, a portable space heater (kept away from flammable materials), or by wrapping pipes with towels soaked in hot water. Do not use a blowtorch, kerosene or propane heater, charcoal stove, or other open flame device.
- Apply heat until full water pressure is restored. If you are unable to locate the frozen area, if the frozen area is not accessible, or if you cannot thaw the pipe, call a licensed plumber.
- Check all other faucets in your home to find out if you have additional frozen pipes. If one pipe freezes, others may freeze, too.

(Reference: <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/winter-storm/frozen-pipes>)

## Pinery Water and Wastewater District Contact Information:

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For after-hours emergencies,  
(303) 841-2797 EXT 299