

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF A SPECIAL BENEFIT ASSESSMENT

The purpose of this Notice is to provide you with information about the “assessment ballot proceeding” being conducted by the Tulare Irrigation District and its effect on real property that you own. This notice is being sent to you in accordance with Tulare Irrigation District Resolution 22-08 adopted on July 12, 2022, Section 53753 of the California Government Code, and Section 4, Article XIII D of the California Constitution. This election is being held in accordance with Proposition 218, which is a Constitutional Initiative approved by the voters of California in November 1996 which requires new or increased assessments to be approved by affected landowners.

Please be advised that a public hearing is set for 9:00 am on August 31, 2022, at the Tulare County Ag Commissioner’s Office located at 4437 South Laspina Street, Tulare, California 93274. to consider establishing an assessment. If you wish to comment on this matter you are invited to do so at the Public Hearing.

The Assessment is necessary to fund the costs of the 1) Districts General & Administrative (G&A) Operations, 2) Surface Water Supply expenses, and 3) Capital Improvements Plan Projects.

For the purposes of the Assessment, lands will be split into two categories as authorized by Water Code §36759: Parcels one acre or less will only be assessed for the District G&A component while parcels greater than one acre will be assessed for all components of the Assessment. The reason parcels greater than one acre are assessed in different manners and in different amounts is that they are anticipated to receive a greater special benefit through the assessment by utilizing water supplies and both categories of lands can only be charged in proportion to the special benefits they receive from the District’s activities. The proposed **maximums** for the Assessment components based on parcel size are represented in the Table below:

Land Type	Assessment Component	Rate per acre
Parcels greater than one acre	1) District G&A	\$67.00
	2) Surface Water Supply	\$35.00
	3) Capital Improvements Plan Projects	\$38.00
	TOTAL	\$140.00
Parcels one acre or less	District G&A	\$67.00
	TOTAL	\$67.00

The District Board will annually consider whether the maximum assessment, or some amount less than the maximum. The maximum will also be phased in over a five-year period and will include a consumer price index to account for inflation. The Assessment and its components are more particularly described in “Engineer’s Report for Tulare Irrigation District: Proposition 218 Procedures for Benefit Assessment” prepared by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group for the District. Copies of this Engineer’s Report are available upon request and can be found on the District website at www.tulareid.org.

Enclosed with this notice, you will find an assessment ballot

Please follow the directions listed on the assessment ballot to express your view on the proposed maximum assessment. You may **mail your ballot in the enclosed postage paid envelope to Tulare Irrigation District, c/o MK Election Services, P.O. Box 1799, Tulare, CA 93275-9983.** Sealed ballots may also be hand-delivered to the Tulare Irrigation District Office (Tulare Irrigation District, 6826 Avenue 240, Tulare, CA 93274) during normal business hours (8:00 am to 5:00 pm). Hand-delivered ballots will also be accepted at the Public Hearing. **Regardless of whether you choose to mail or hand deliver your ballot it *MUST* be received no later than the conclusion of the public hearing set for 9:00 am on August 31, 2022, at the Tulare County Ag Commissioner’s Office located at 4437 South Laspina Street, Tulare, California 93274. Any ballots received after the last call for ballots shall not be considered.**

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Additionally, if you wish you may submit your ballot at the public hearing, and you may change your vote at any time prior to the conclusion of the public hearing on this matter. However, because the ballots must remain sealed until the tabulation begins regardless of your method of delivery, we ask that you please seal your ballot in the enclosed return envelope and include your name and address on the envelope so that we may return your ballot to you, if you wish.

After the hearing, MK Elections will tabulate the ballots weighted according to the proposed increase to you for your parcel(s) and will post the results as soon as practical. If the number of votes submitted in opposition to the proposed assessment rate exceed the number of votes submitted in favor (weighted according to the parcel acreage and proposed assessment rate), Tulare Irrigation District will not impose the new assessment.

A ballot will **NOT** be accepted nor tabulated: 1) which is a photocopy without an original signature; 2) which is unsigned; 3) which lacks an identifiable "yes" or "no" vote; or 4) which appears to have been tampered with or otherwise invalid based upon its appearance or method of delivery. The Designated Individual will begin tabulating ballots, including those received during the public hearing, and will post the results in the District's office and/or on the District's website (www.tulareid.org) as soon as practical after the hearing. The Board of Directors will not impose the proposed Assessment if there is a "majority protest." A majority protest exists, if upon the conclusion of the hearing, votes submitted in opposition to the increase exceed the votes submitted in favor of the increase. Under the provisions of Proposition 218, votes are weighted according to the proportional increase in the financial obligation of the affected property.

Note, if your parcel(s) has more than one ownership interest, the various owners may submit their own ballots. In the event, all of the separate owners fail to submit their own ballots, the District will tabulate the submitted ballots proportionally to reflect a one hundred percent (100%) vote. For example, if a parcel(s) had five ownership interests and only one ballot is submitted, that ballot will be counted as the vote for all five owners. On the other hand if the District receives two ballots on the property, one YES and one NO, the District will apportion fifty percent (50%) of that parcel(s)'s vote to YES and fifty percent (50%) to NO.

Notice is further given that a copy of the preliminary roll prepared pursuant to a resolution of the Board fixing the amount of the proposed Assessment for each parcel subject to said Assessment, is available for public inspection upon request to Beth Holmes, District Assessor during regular business hours at 6826 Avenue 240, Tulare, California 93274. Objections to the roll or charges established for the respective parcels of land in accordance with said preliminary roll will also be heard at said hearing on August 31, 2022.

Should you have any questions, please call or write to: Tulare Irrigation District, Care of: Beth Holmes, Assessor or Aaron Fukuda, General Manager, 6826 Avenue 240, Tulare, California 93274 Telephone 559-686-1960.

Dated: July 12, 2022



David Bixler, Board President