

**NOTICE OF MEETING TO  
CONSIDER INCREASE IN RATES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4.00/MONTH  
DURANGO WEST METROPOLITAN DISTRICT NO. 1**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, pursuant to Section 32-1-1001(2)(a), C.R.S., to the customers of the Durango West Metropolitan District No. 1, and all other interested persons, that the Board of Directors of the Durango West Metropolitan District No. 1 may consider increasing the District's monthly water fees by the fixed minimum amount of \$4.00 (Four Dollars), and the board will consider officially authorizing this increase in water fees at an open public meeting to be held at 6:30pm on April 26, 2023 at the District Office, 119 Holly Hock Trail, Durango, La Plata County, Colorado. Current fees and the proposed increase:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Minimum Water Charges for 0-5,000 gallons	\$46.00	\$50.00
Rate per thousand gallons for 5,000-10,000	\$15.00 (tier 1)	\$15.00 (tier 1)
Rate per thousand gallons for 10,000-20,000	\$20.00 (tier 2)	\$20.00 (tier 2)
Rate per thousand gallons for over 20,000	\$25.00 (tier 3)	\$25.00 (tier 3)

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that any customer or other interested person may appear at said time and place for the purpose of providing input, comments or objections regarding any proposed increase/new charge. Comments may also be sent prior to the public meeting. Comments that are not submitted in person during the meeting must be received no later than 5pm on April 26, 2023 to be included in the Board's consideration. Information regarding the proposed increase is attached below. Further questions or comments between now and 5pm on April 26, 2023, may be addressed to the attention of: Janet Anderson by 1) email, 2) telephone, 3) written correspondence, or 4) make an appointment to meet in person.

Janet Anderson, District Manager, may be reached at: [dw1@mydurango.net](mailto:dw1@mydurango.net) (970) 259-4267 or (970) 946-2310, and the District Office, 119 Holly Hock Trail.

Dated this 13th day of March, 2023.

DURANGO WEST METRO DISTRICT #1

*By: Janet Anderson, District Manager*

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### ***03/13/23 WHY IS THE BOARD CONSIDERING RAISING WATER FEES? Again?***

In October, 2020, Dw1 sent a newsletter explaining our auditor was concerned about consistent losses in the Water Fund. The auditor recommended an increase of \$15.00/month. Dw1 uses three operating funds: General Fund, Water Fund, and Sewer Fund. Each fund should be self-supporting; however, the Water Fund has been in the red and has been supplemented by the Sewer and/or General fund for several years. Although they are painfully aware of increasing water costs, board members are always hesitant to raise fees. Instead of increasing \$15 at once, a plan was made to raise \$7.50 in 2020, then follow up with two smaller increases of \$3.50 each by the end of 2021. However, these last two increases were not made in 2021. Given economic difficulties for many due to covid and inflation in 2020 & 2021, the board really wanted to hold off as long as possible. A \$3.50 increase was eventually approved about six months ago, in October, 2022, leaving Dw1 still \$4.00 short of the original \$15 recommendation. Water fees recently went from \$42.50 to \$46.00 for the first tier of 0-5000 gal. The current \$4.00 under consideration means an increase from \$46.00 to \$50.00.

In 2023, Lake Durango Water Authority increased its rates to Dw1 by 15%. Most of us realize water costs have steadily increased in much of the country, especially the west. Drought conditions have emptied reservoirs and the EPA/Health Departments continue to require higher standards for water treatment and distribution.

For now, Dw1 board will hold a vote to increase water rates by \$4.00 at the regular April 26 meeting, after public comments have been heard. A hearing will start at 6:30pm with open comments. Customers are welcome to attend or to submit comments in writing, which will be read into the public record: [dwl@mydurango.net](mailto:dwl@mydurango.net) or [dwlboardmembers@gmail.com](mailto:dwlboardmembers@gmail.com), or drop comments in payment box. This \$4.00 will bring Dw1 to the 2020 revenues recommendation. Unfortunately, we will still remain short because of the increase from Lake Durango and higher than normal inflation. Almost every line item in our budget has become more expensive since 2020.

Residents should plan on an additional \$6.00 monthly increase during 2023, possibly as early as summer, but advance notification will definitely be sent. Dw1's own water system also needs improvements such as main valve replacements and interior recoating of our water storage tank.

We regretfully pass on this news and welcome your input and comments at any time.  
Meeting to consider this \$4.00 rate increase: April 26, 2023, 6:30pm.