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KINGSBURG MOVES TOWARD LONG-TERM WATER SUSTAINABILITY WITH NEW RATES AND DROUGHT STANDARDS



Kingsburg Advances Water Management with Rate Study and Landscaping Ordinance

The Kingsburg City Council took two major steps at its March 19 meeting to improve local water management and infrastructure, approving a comprehensive water rate study and formally adopting the state's water-efficient landscaping ordinance.

Both decisions aim to prepare the city for rising costs, regulatory compliance, and the long-term sustainability of its water system.

Updated Water Rates Coming

[Council approved](#) the findings of a new water rate study and set a public hearing date for May 21, 2025, under the requirements of Proposition 218.

Key changes under the new rate structure include:

- Phase-out of the free water allotment (11,000 gallons per month) currently included in the base rate
- A tiered rate system based on meter size, with higher fixed charges for larger meters
- Initial consideration of optional drought rates to be activated in water emergencies (though [Council ultimately voted to remove these from the plan](#))

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The changes are designed to ensure the [city can continue maintaining and upgrading](#) its water system while meeting state standards. Updated rates are expected to take effect following the Proposition 218 hearing.

Landscaping Ordinance Adopted

Council also voted to formally adopt the Model Water Efficiency Landscape [Ordinance](#) (MWELo), bringing Kingsburg into full alignment with the state's requirements for water-wise landscaping in new developments.

While city staff had already been informally applying the standards, official adoption was needed to meet state expectations and ensure consistency in the review of future housing and commercial projects.

The ordinance applies to landscaping for:

- New developments and large remodels
- City-funded projects
- Projects using dedicated irrigation meters

Adopting MWELo codifies Kingsburg's commitment to drought-tolerant landscaping and efficient irrigation, both of which are increasingly critical as the state continues to face water availability challenges.

Looking Ahead

With both policies in place, Kingsburg positions itself to manage water more efficiently at both the household and community-wide levels. City officials expect these changes will help balance infrastructure costs, reduce waste, and improve long-term resilience in the face of regulatory and environmental [pressures](#).