

Rye Water District
January 29, 2026 Public Hearings
Rye Junior High School



- **PUBLIC HEARING #1**
- Changes to the District's water rates
- **PUBLIC HEARING #2**
- Amendments to the District By-laws to implement odd/even irrigation schedules for all customers and to implement quarterly billing

Rye Water District

January 29, 2026 Public Hearings:

- **PUBLIC HEARING #1**
- Changes to the District's water rates
- Underwood Engineers Rate Study Presentation
- Public Hearing



Rye Water District 2025 Water Rate Public Hearing Rye, NH

January 29, 2026

Underwood Engineers



Underwood Engineers



Goals/Purpose

- Review and update rate design with focus on rate equity
- Provide rate adjustment recommendations for 2026
- Estimate projections through 2030 based on anticipated Water Treatment Facility debt and operational costs
- Review System Development Charges (SDCs)



Prior Rate Work & Background

- Prior rate study performed by Raftellis in 2024 and Wright Pierce in 2017
- Current rates are generally consistent with the recommendations from the 2024 report
- General Fund (Water District taxes) funds 51% of budget

Existing Rates (Fixed)

- Current Rate Structure: annual fixed rate by meter size

Rye Water Rate		
5/8"	Fixed	\$146.00
3/4"	Fixed	\$179.00
1"	Fixed	\$213.00
1 1/4"	Fixed	\$253.00
1 1/2"	Fixed	\$297.00
2"	Fixed	\$432.00
3"	Fixed	\$869.00
4"	Fixed	\$1,745.00
Portsmouth Water Rate		
5/8"	Fixed	\$280.00
3/4"	Fixed	\$313.00
1"	Fixed	\$359.00
1 1/4"	Fixed	\$398.00
1 1/2"	Fixed	\$443.00
2"	Fixed	\$577.00
3"	Fixed	\$1,015.00
4"	Fixed	\$1,891.00

Existing Rates (Consumption)

- Current rate structure: 50,000-gallon annual allotment and annual billing until allotment is exceeded

Per \$1,000 gal		
Rye Water Rate		
Tier I	0-50,000 Gal	\$0.00
Tier II	51-75,000 Gal	\$5.00
Tier III	76-100,000 Gal	\$6.50
Tier IV	101-200,000 Gal	\$8.00
Tier V	>201,000 Gal	\$10.00
Portsmouth Water Rate		
Tier I	0-50,000 Gal	\$0.00
Tier II	51-100,000 Gal	\$6.50
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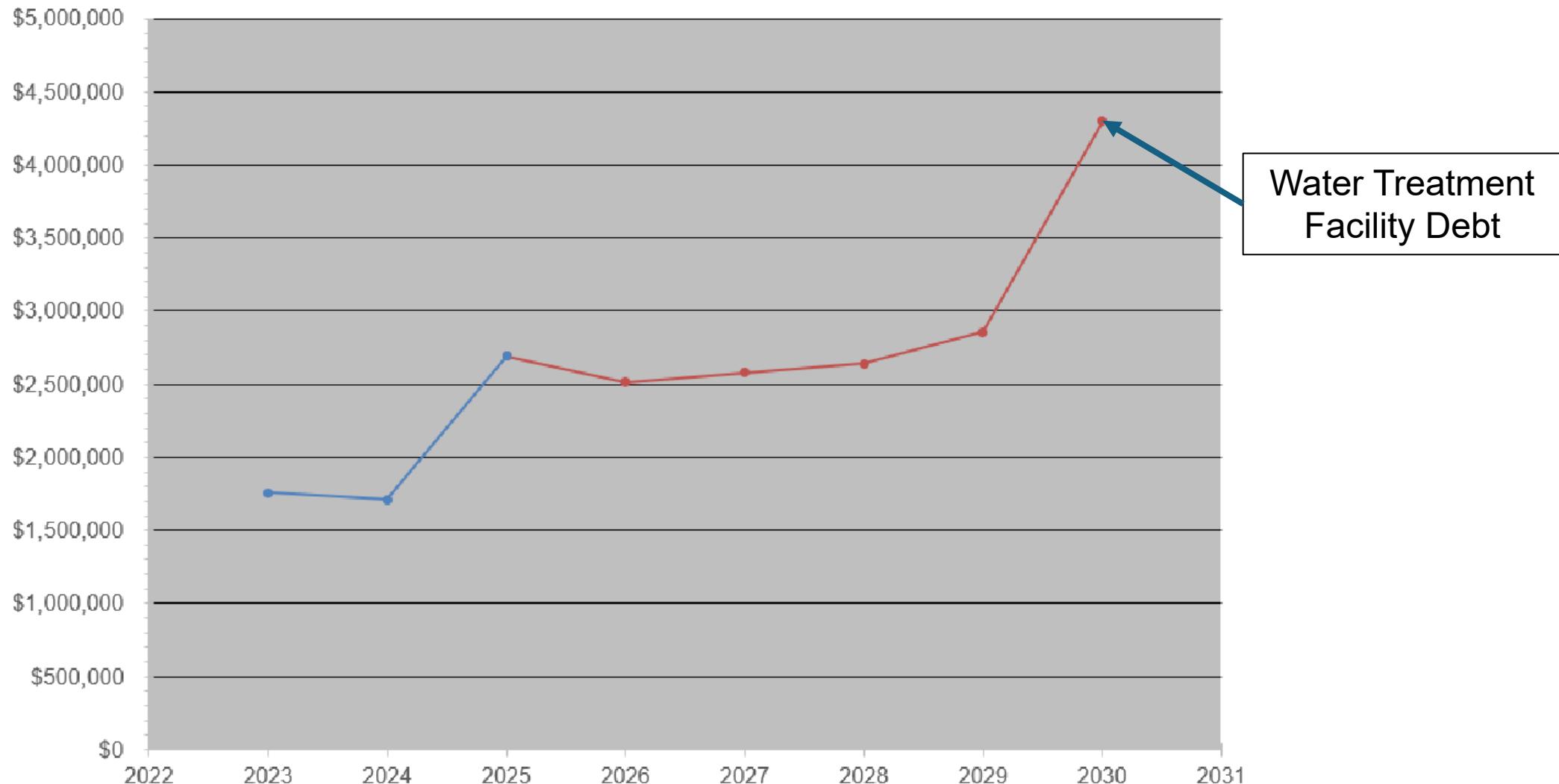
Existing Debt Service

- 2014 \$2.6M Route 1A Water Main Improvements
- 2024 \$800k Garland Road Pump House Improvements
- 2024 \$799k Wallis Road Water Main Improvements

Proposed Debt Service

- 2030 \$13.95M Water Treatment Plant
 - \$16M in loans
 - (\$2M) in debt forgiveness
 - Approximately \$1M annual payment

Prior & Projected Expenditures



Historical Rate Adjustments

Meter Size	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
5/8"	\$130	\$130	\$133	\$133	\$133	\$133	\$146	\$146
3/4"	\$160	\$160	\$163	\$163	\$163	\$163	\$179	\$179
1"	\$190	\$190	\$194	\$194	\$194	\$194	\$213	\$213
1 1/4"	\$225	\$225	\$230	\$230	\$230	\$230	\$253	\$253
1 1/2"	\$265	\$265	\$270	\$270	\$270	\$270	\$297	\$297
2"	\$390	\$390	\$393	\$393	\$393	\$393	\$432	\$432
3"	\$780	\$780	\$790	\$790	\$790	\$790	\$869	\$869
4"	\$1,560	\$1,560	\$1,586	\$1,586	\$1,586	\$1,586	\$1,745	\$1,745
Tier Size (1k gal)	Consumption Charges							
0 - 50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
51 - 75	\$3.30	\$3.30	\$3.40	\$3.40	\$3.50	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
76 - 100	\$3.85	\$3.85	\$3.95	\$3.95	\$4.05	\$6.50	\$6.50	\$6.50
101 - 200	\$4.95	\$4.95	\$5.05	\$5.05	\$5.20	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00
> 201	\$6.10	\$6.10	\$6.20	\$6.20	\$6.40	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00



Historical Rate Adjustments Portsmouth

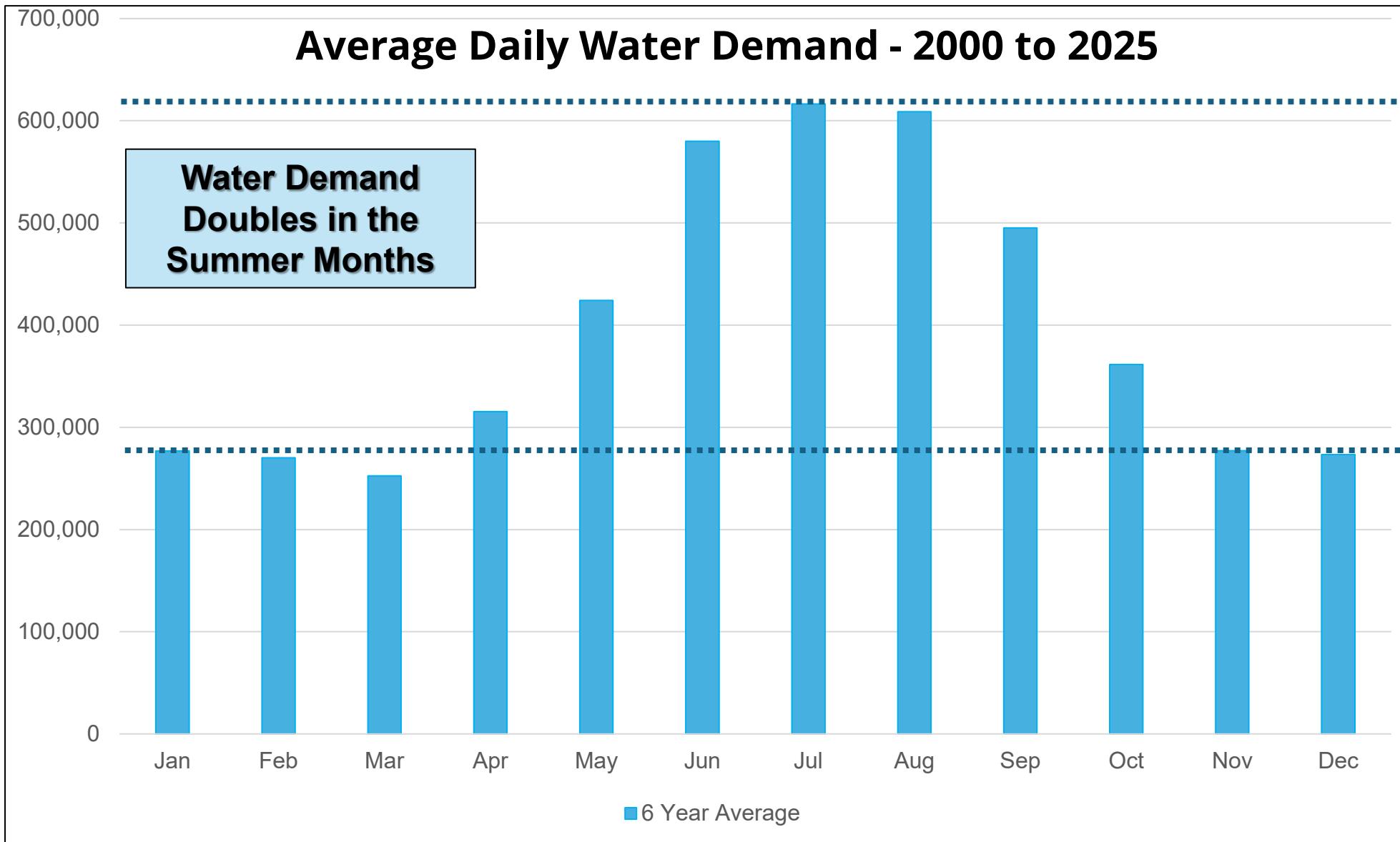
Meter Size	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
5/8"	\$250	\$250	\$255	\$255	\$255	\$255	\$280	\$280
3/4"	\$270	\$270	\$285	\$285	\$285	\$285	\$313	\$313
1"	\$320	\$320	\$326	\$326	\$326	\$326	\$359	\$359
1 1/4"	\$255	\$255	\$362	\$362	\$362	\$362	\$398	\$398
1 1/2"	\$295	\$295	\$403	\$403	\$403	\$403	\$443	\$443
2"	\$515	\$515	\$525	\$525	\$525	\$525	\$577	\$577
3"	\$905	\$905	\$923	\$923	\$923	\$923	\$1,015	\$1,015
4"	\$1,685	\$1,685	\$1,719	\$1,719	\$1,719	\$1,719	\$1,891	\$1,891
Tier Size (1k gal)	Consumption Charges							
0 - 50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
51 - 100	\$5.50	\$5.50	\$5.80	\$5.80	\$5.80	\$6.50	\$6.50	\$6.50
101 - 200	\$6.05	\$6.05	\$6.40	\$6.40	\$6.40	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00
> 201	\$6.05	\$6.05	\$6.40	\$6.40	\$6.40	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00



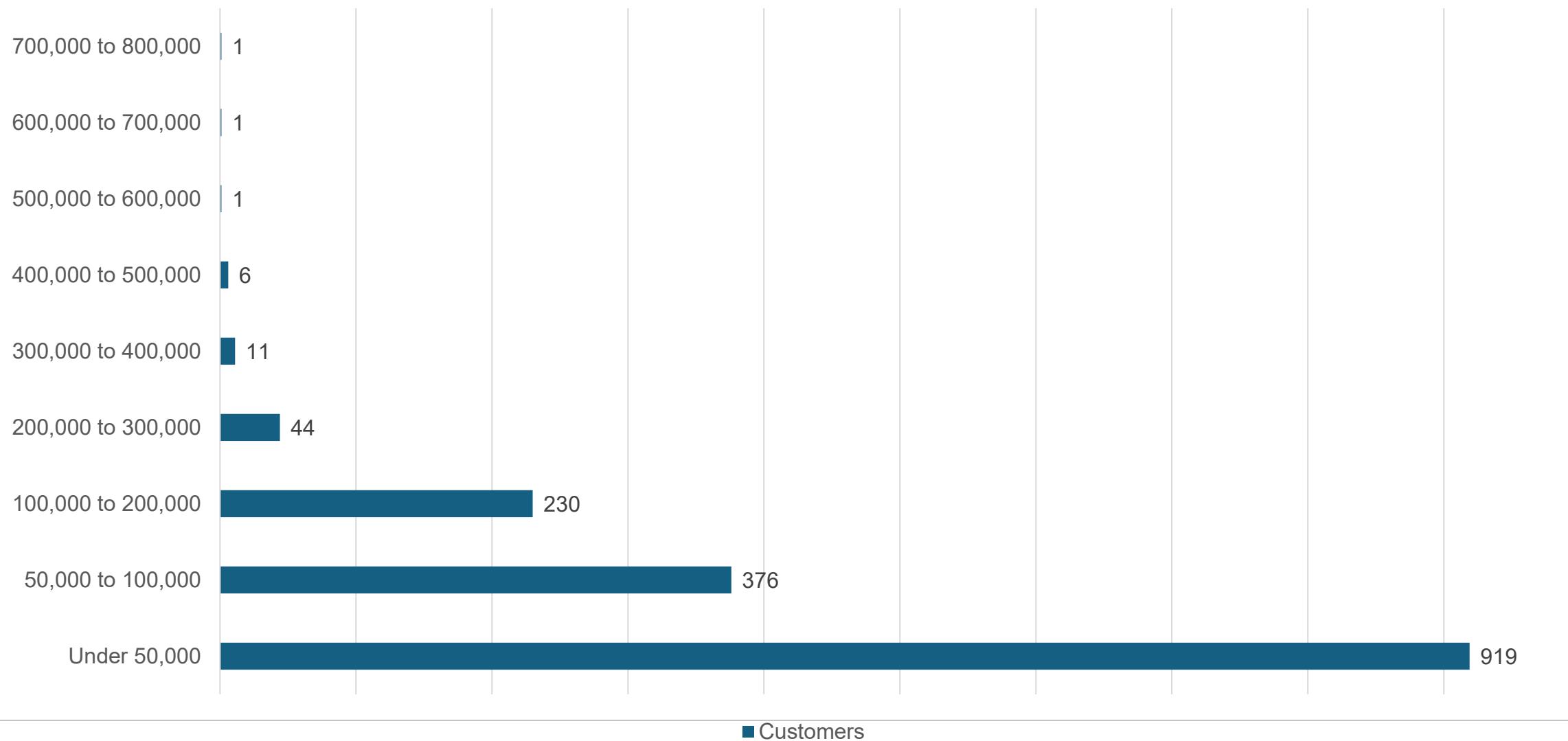
Current Rates

- Includes 50,000-gal annual allotment
- Consumption Charge (\$/1000 gal)

Supply	Yearly Base Charge (5/8" meter)	Up to 50,000 gal	51,000 to 75,000 gal	76,000 to 100,000 gal	101,000 to 200,000 gal	Over 200,000 gal
Rye	\$146.00	\$0.00	\$5.00	\$6.50	\$8.00	\$10.00
Portsmouth	\$280.00	\$0.00	\$6.50	\$6.50	\$8.00	\$10.00



Single Family Home – Annual Usage and Number of Customers 2024 Data



Rate Model Design

- 2024 year water consumption
- Tax portion calculated at 51% of budget
- Projected expenditures out with 3% annual inflation
- For water treatment facility upgrade, estimated debt schedule (interest rate 2.8% provided by State)
- Typical (average) user: 5/8" and 3/4" meter = 145 gallons per day (53,000 gallons per year)

Rate Redesign Recommendations

- UE recommends the following rate redesign:
 - Implement AWWA meter ratios
 - Match tier ratios for Rye and Portsmouth consumption
 - Establish consistent rates for both Rye and Portsmouth users (fixed and consumption)
 - Switch to quarterly billing
 - Switch to 12,000-gallon quarterly allotment (previously 50,000 gallons per year)
 - Assumed 51% GF Revenue until WTP costs are incurred (2030)

Recommended Fixed Quarterly Charges

All Users

Meter Size	Quarterly Charge	Meter Ratio	# of Users
5/8"	\$33.30	1.0	1866
3/4"	\$36.63	1.1	20
1"	\$46.62	1.4	171
1 1/2"	\$59.94	1.8	5
2"	\$96.57	2.9	14
3"	\$366.30	11.0	1
4"	\$466.20	14.0	2

Rate Design

Quarterly Consumption Rates

All Users

Tier (1,000 gal)	Rate (per 1,000 gal)
Tier I 0-12	\$0.00
Tier II 12-25	\$7.33
Tier III 25-50	\$9.38
Tier IV >50	\$12.00

2026 Projections

- Operating Budget = \$2.4M
- Revenue = \$2.5M
 - District Generated = \$1.2M
 - GF Generated = \$1.3M

Sample Bills (Water Portion)

User	2024 (Current)	2026
Residential (5/8") up to 131 gpd (12,000 gal/qtr.) low use residential user	\$146	\$133
Residential (5/8") 178 gpd (16,250 gal/qtr.) high use residential user	\$221	\$258
Commercial (2") 904 gpd (82,500 gal/qtr.) example account	\$2,819	\$3,265

Sample Bills (Water Portion)

% Increases Compared to 2024

User	2024 (Current)	2026	2030 (EST)
Residential (5/8") up to 131 gpd (12,000 gal/qtr.) low use residential user	\$146	\$133 (-9%)	\$200-\$240* (+37%-64%)
Residential (5/8") 178 gpd (16,250 gal/qtr.) high use residential user	\$221	\$258 (+17%)	\$380-\$450* (+72%-104%)
Commercial (2") 904 gpd (82,500 gal/qtr.) example account	\$2,819	\$3,265 (+16%)	\$4,820-\$5,760* (+71%-104%)

*Depending
on portion
paid by taxes



System Development Charge

New Charge

Meter Size	Equivalent EDUs	Estimated Use (gpd)	Water Equity Buy-In Cost
5/8" & 3/4"	1	145	\$622 Each
1"	2.5	363	\$1,556 Each
1-1/2"	5.0	725	\$3,112 Each
2" and Greater	Varies	As approved by Town	\$4.29 per gpd

Summary of Recommendations

- Next 1-2 Months
 - Update to quarterly billing & 12,000-gal quarterly allotment
 - Increase water rates and implement AWWA meter ratios
 - Unify Portsmouth and Rye Rates (Portsmouth and Rye users shall be charged the same)
 - Update/implement SDC's
 - Eliminate irrigation rates now that we are charging quarterly
- Starting Spring/Summer 2026
 - Update model with 5-year CIP
 - Establish/update contribution from Town General Fund for WTP
 - Review/Refresh the model every year until WTP is online

Proposed Rates & SDC Sheet

2026 Rye Water District Existing vs Proposed Rates			
1/27/2026			
Existing Rates		Proposed Rates	
Rye Unit Charge (Annual)		Rye Unit Charge (Quarterly)	
5/8"	\$146.00	5/8"	\$33.30
3/4"	\$179.00	3/4"	\$36.63
1"	\$213.00	1"	\$46.62
1 1/4"	\$253.00	1 1/4"	NA
1 1/2"	\$297.00	1 1/2"	\$59.94
2"	\$432.00	2"	\$96.57
3"	\$869.00	3"	\$366.30
4"	\$1,745.00	4"	\$466.20
Portsmouth Unit Charge (Annual)		Portsmouth Unit Charge (Quarterly)	
5/8"	\$280.00	5/8"	\$33.30
3/4"	\$313.00	3/4"	\$36.63
1"	\$359.00	1"	\$46.62
1 1/4"	\$398.00	1 1/4"	NA
1 1/2"	\$443.00	1 1/2"	\$59.94
2"	\$577.00	2"	\$96.57
3"	\$1,015.00	3"	\$366.30
4"	\$1,891.00	4"	\$466.20
Multi Unit Allotments (Annual)	\$146.00	Multi Unit Allotments (Quarterly)	\$33.30
Rye Usage Charge (per 1,000 gal)			
Tier I 0-50	\$0.00	Tier I 0-12	\$0.00
Tier II 51-75	\$5.00		
Tier III 76-100	\$6.50	Tier II 12-25	\$7.33
Tier IV 101-200	\$8.00	Tier III 25-50	\$9.38
Tier V >201	\$10.00	Tier IV >50	\$12.00
Portsmouth Usage Charge (per 1,000 gal)			
Tier I 0-50	\$0.00	Tier I 0-12	\$0.00
Tier II 51-100	\$6.50	Tier II 12-25	\$7.33
Tier III 101-200	\$8.00	Tier III 25-50	\$9.38
Tier IV >201	\$10.00	Tier IV >50	\$12.00
System Development Charge			
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5/8" & 3/4"	1	145	\$622 Each
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2" and Greater	Varies	As approved by Town	\$4.29 per gpd



Thank You



Underwood Engineers

2025 Water Rate Study

26

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- Changes to the District's water rates



Rye Water District

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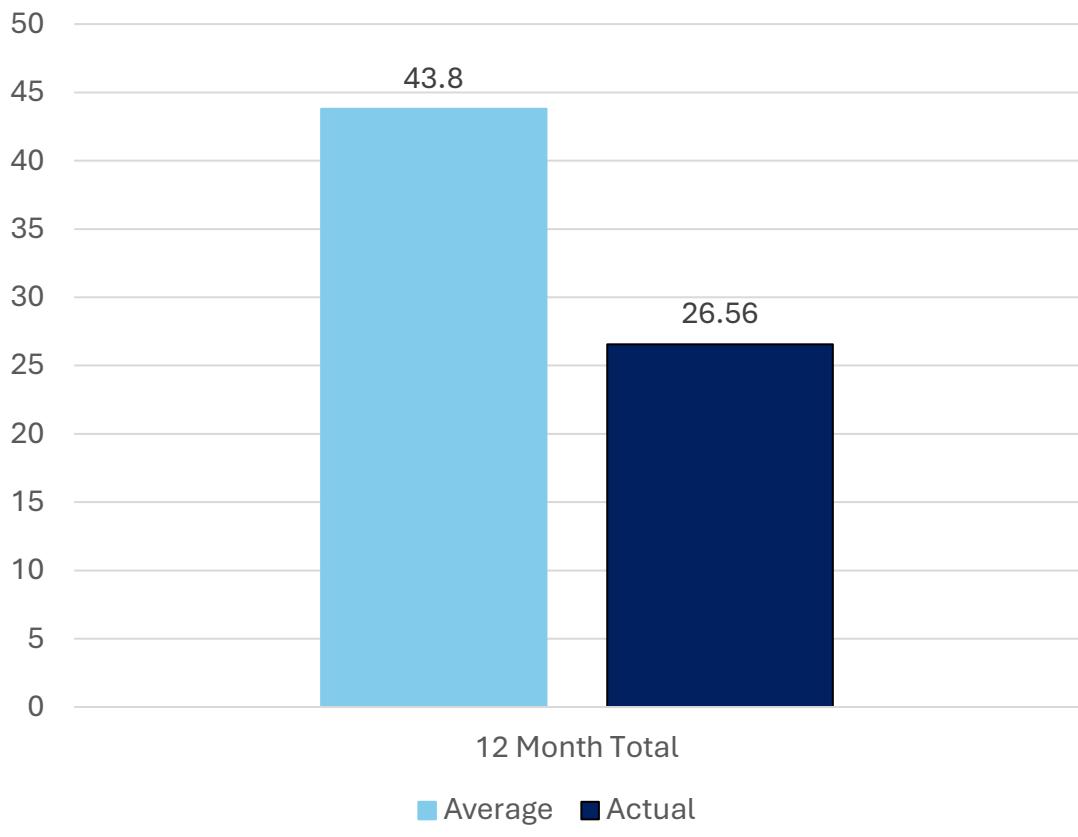


- **PUBLIC HEARING #2**
- Amendments to the District By-laws to implement odd/even irrigation schedules for all customers and to implement quarterly billing
- Presentation by the Water District
- Public Hearing

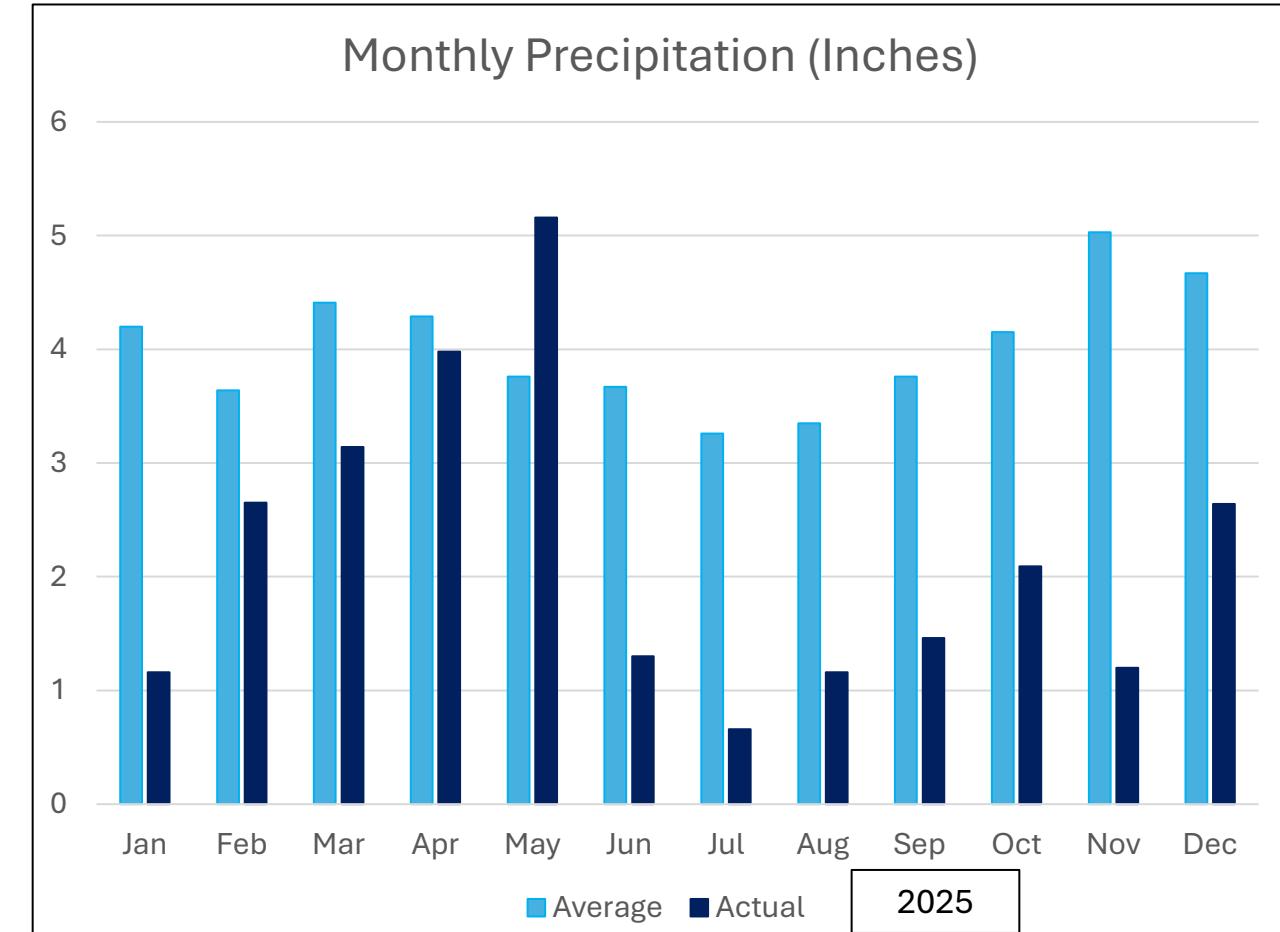
Precipitation

January to December 2025

12 Month Total Precipitation (Inches)



Monthly Precipitation (Inches)



2025 Drought



Rye Water District
Committed to Providing Clean, Safe Water for All Our Residents

(603) 436-2596
[Contact Us](#)

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Alert

!

Odd/Even Water Restrictions
August 20, 2025

Due to the ongoing drought, Rye Water District customers are to comply with an odd/even irrigation system schedule. Customers with odd-numbered street addresses can irrigate from midnight until 8:00 am on odd numbered days. Customers with even-numbered addresses can water on even numbered days. Thank you for your cooperation during these dry times.

[Ok, Got It!](#)

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BILL PAYMENT

Drought Contingency

Quality Report and Sanitary Survey

Agendas

Even Water Restrictions

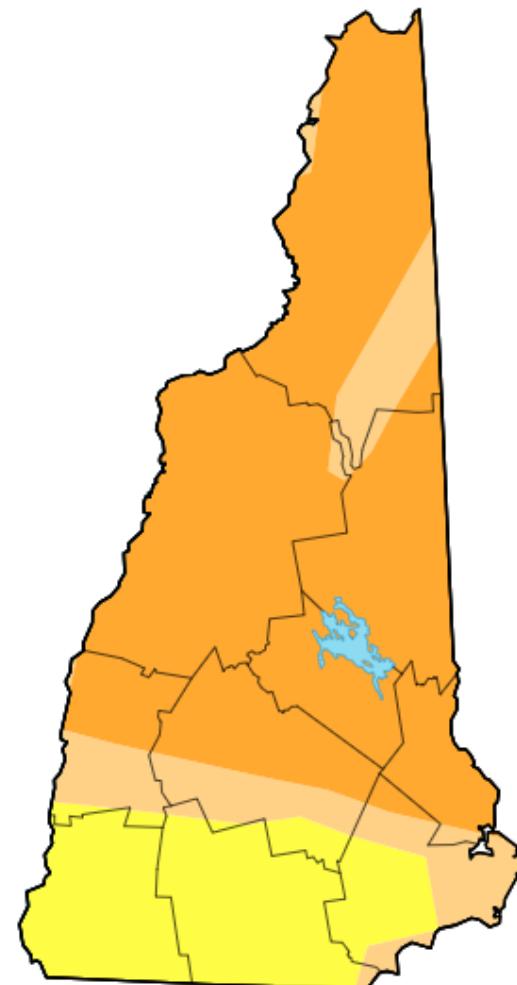
2025

Signs Posted Throughout Town



New Hampshire

[Home](#) / New Hampshire



Map released: Weds. December 31, 2025

Data valid: December 30, 2025 at 7 a.m. EST

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Authors

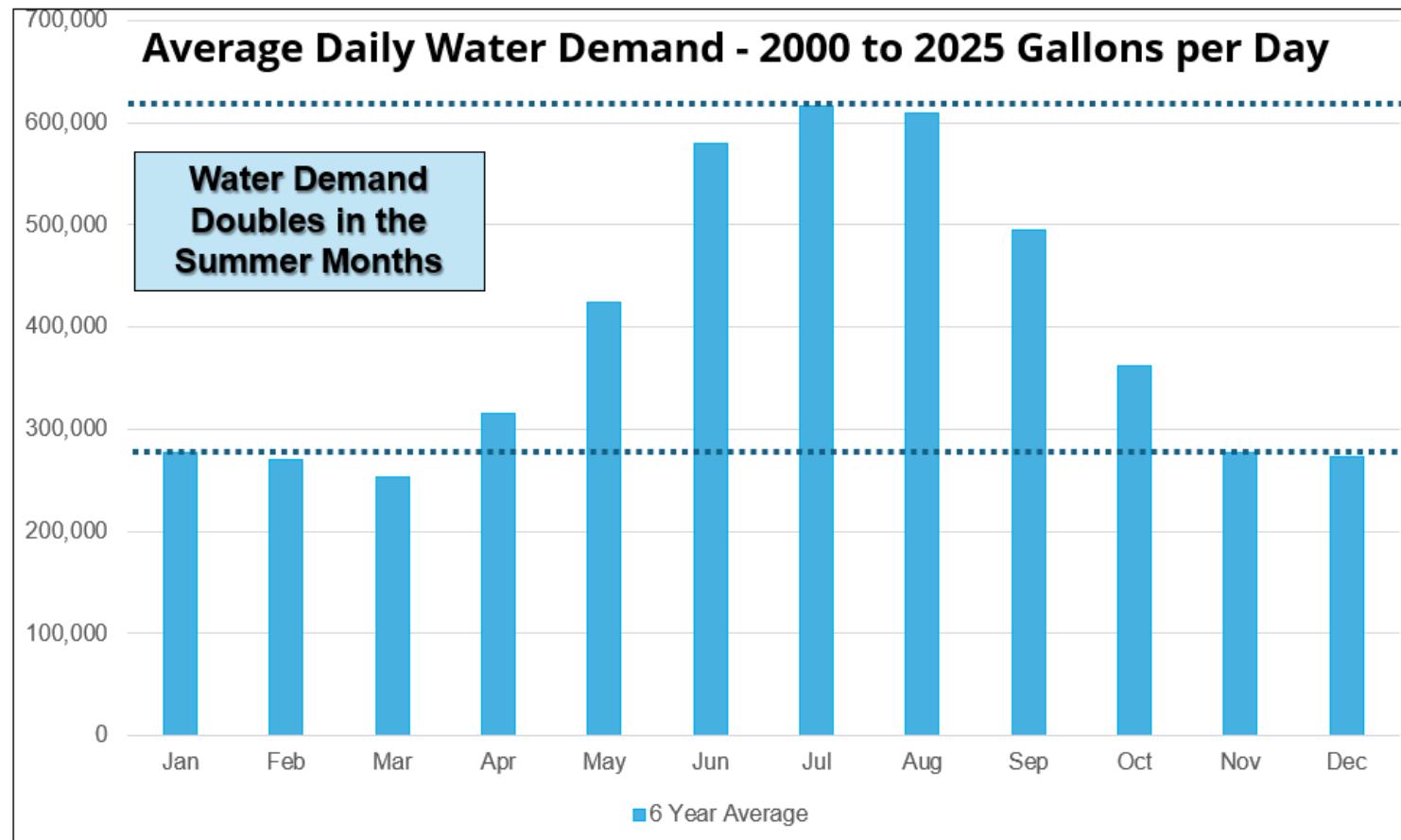
United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

[Rocky Bilotto](#), NOAA/NCEI

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

[Anthony Artusa](#), NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

Water Demand



Bylaw Change – Water Restrictions

- REGULATIONS AND RATE/FEE SCHEDULES21. Watering Restrictions.
- It shall be unlawful for any person or corporation to violate a Rye Water District outside water restriction.
- The RWD Board of Commissioners has the authority under RSA 38:26 to issue a partial or full water ban at its discretion as well as fine for any violation to preserve the safety and integrity of the system.
- Any person violating a RWD water ban will be notified, via in-person delivery or via certified mail, return receipt requested, or via registered mail, and fined as follows:
 - 1st offense: written warning;
 - 2nd offense: written notice and \$100 fine;
 - 3rd offense: fine of \$250 per offense and for each subsequent offense, and written notice that service may be terminated within 3 days, any notice to tenants will comply with RSA 38:31.
 - A reconnection fee will be applied to restore service. All assessed fines and the reconnection fee must be paid in full prior to reestablishing service. On all subsequent violations resulting in termination of service, the reconnection fee will double.
 - Each day of violation shall constitute a separate offense.

Billing Bylaw Change:

9. Billing and Payment

c. General

Property owners will be charged for all water usage registered on their installed meters. Quarterly basic charge bills will be issued to property owners the last week of March, June, September and December, for the current quarter, and will be payable within 30 days. Year round Basic charge bills will be issued to property owners on March 30, for the current calendar year, and will be payable within 30 days. Property owners will not receive a quarterly statement unless they exceed the basic charge volume. If water usage exceeds the basic charge volume, the quarterly statement will show the excess water charges for that quarter. Quarterly bills are issued on June 30, September 30, and December 30.

Seasonal usage will be billed June 30 for the current year and will not be eligible for service unless the previous year's bill has been paid in full.

19. Rye Water District Usage Rate & Fee Schedule (Schedules are posted at the District Business Office).

This schedule is applicable to all customers within the boundaries of the District where water supply mains are available. Basic Annual Quarterly Charge: The Basic Annual Quarterly Charge is determined by the size of the meter as shown in the rate schedule for the first 5012,000 gallons used per calendar year quarter. Excess Charges: Volumes in excess of 5012,000 gallons per calendar year quarter will be charged as shown in the rate schedule.

Rye Water District

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- Amendments to the District By-laws to implement odd/even irrigation schedules for all customers and to implement quarterly billing

