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TMWA board approves rate increase

by [Jill Lufrano](#)

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SPARKS — Truckee Meadows Water Authority's Board of Directors quickly approved a rate hike on customer's water bill Thursday night after hearing from two residents at a meeting in Sparks.

The meeting represented the final hearing for the water rate adjustments.

The monthly service fee for customers will be increased by 3.5 percent. The average bill will cost about \$1.41 more per month. Another increase could be made in 2013 and 2014 if the economy does not improve and revenues continue to remain flat.

The water authority cites an increase in operating costs of more than \$7.3 million in the last two years as reason for the hike.

Additionally, the directors pointed to the decline of customers in the area, and the trend of little- to no- growth expected in new services in the future, as reasons why they need to increase revenues.

"The rate adjustments are needed to reduce the difference between TMWA's operating and maintenance expenses and declining revenues," General Manager Mark Foree said in a press release last week.

The increases are planned to appear on customer's bills during the first billing cycle in February, according to the water authority.

Copies of the proposed rate adjustments and information related to the proposed rate adjustments are available at the Truckee Meadows Water Authority office, 1355 Capital Blvd. in Reno, or at www.tmwa.com.

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