



Water Station Rate Adjustment Proposal

Cascade County Public Works owns and operates three public water distribution stations that provide bulk water access to the public. Water station rates have remained unchanged since the last rate adjustment in 2017, while operating and maintenance costs have increased significantly.

Due to continued increases in water purchase and utility costs, the County's current rate of \$0.25 per 75 gallons is no longer sufficient to cover operational expenses, ongoing maintenance, and future capital improvement needs.

In 2025, a total of 24,708,024 gallons were dispensed at a rate of \$0.00341 per gallon, generating total revenue of \$84,318.81. Total operating expenses of \$103,132.00 resulted in a net operating loss of \$19,290.74, as reflected in the tables below.

2025 Water Station Revenue by Station

Water Station Location	Total
1605 8 th Ave NW	\$34,546.76
100 21 st Ave S	\$26,787.47
400 36 th Ave NE	\$22,984.58
TOTAL	\$84,318.81

2025 Water Station Expenses

Vendor	Total
City of Great Falls	\$90,132.00 (.00377/gallon)
NorthWestern Energy	\$13,477.55
TOTAL	\$103,132.00

CAPITAL AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS

The existing water stations require ongoing repairs and planned capital improvements, including roof repair and/or replacement, structural repairs, and general site maintenance.

At the current rate structure, there is no dedicated funding mechanism sufficient to support these long-term facility needs.

PROPOSED RATE ADJUSTMENT

To ensure the water stations remain financially sustainable and capable of supporting future maintenance and capital improvements, Cascade County Public Works recommends adjusting the rate to **\$0.25 per 50 gallons.**

The proposed rate structure would cover the cost of water purchased from the City of Great Falls, annual electrical costs associated with NorthWestern Energy, and provide funding for future repairs and capital improvements.

Projected 2026 Revenue at \$.025 per 50 Gallons (Based on 2025 Usage)

Projected Revenue	+ \$123,540.12
Estimated Operating Costs	- \$103,132.00
Net Operating Balance	+ \$20,408.12