EAST BOULDER COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

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December 24, 2025

Dear District Member:

This has been a pivotal year for the East Boulder County Water District (EBCWD). In May, EBCWD's President, Mark Johns, retired from the Board of Directors after serving for over 20 years. His leadership as President of EBCWD played a key role in the expansion and maturation of our District's infrastructure and governance. Over the last few years, Mark led EBCWD's response to the devastating impacts of the Marshall Fire by doing whatever was needed to get EBCWD operational again. He donated months of his own time coordinating with our contractor, Boulder Water Well, FEMA, and the State of Colorado Water Quality Control Division to assess and mitigate water quality issues after the fire. This effort led to Mark receiving a Commitment Award from the State, which stated:

> *The Water Quality Control Division would like to recognize East Boulder County WD <leadership> with the **WQCD Commitment Award**. This award, given under the Pursuing Excellence Program, recognizes water systems that have either taken impressive steps to overcome a difficult challenge or have shown an exceptional commitment to the culture of health. East Boulder County WD's exemplary work during the Marshall fire is worthy of recognition.*

We each owe Mark a great deal of gratitude for his unwavering commitment to EBCWD. His stewardship of our water system cannot be overstated. **Thank you, Mark, for twenty years of service to the District!**

Elections for new volunteers to serve on the EBCWD Board were held in May, and the new EBCWD Directors/Officers are:

- Marsh Lavenue as Board Chair and President,
- Catherine Gee as Board Director and Vice President,
- Yvonne Gates as Board Director and Treasurer,
- Bob Champ as Board Director and Secretary,
- PJ Bostley as Board Director and Operations Committee Chair.

I wish to thank my fellow Board members for volunteering their time to serve the District. Bob Champ deserves special recognition for having served as EBCWD's Board Secretary since its inception in 2000. Thank you for your continued service, Bob!

2026 Rates

As mentioned in previous years' rate letters, the rates for the water we purchase from the City of Lafayette (COL) have been increasing due to higher operational costs and infrastructure upgrades, enhancing the resilience of our future water supply. The COL has increased its water rates each year over the last four years. The 2026 increase for COL water will be 12%, resulting in a 96% increase since 2021. The significantly higher rates at which we purchase water have coincided with substantial financial pressures on EBCWD due to reduced revenue and higher operational costs following the Marshall Fire. At the time of the fire, EBCWD had over $550,000 in cash reserves accumulated over 20 years and designated for infrastructure repairs. As

MARSH LAVENUE, *PRESIDENT* | CATHERINE GEE, *VICE-PRESIDENT* | ROBERT CHAMP, *SECRETARY* | YVONNE GATES, *TREASURER* | PJ BOSTLEY, *DIRECTOR*

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of this letter, EBCWD has just over $280,000 in cash reserves after finishing 2025 with a loss of approximately $20,000.

Each year, EBCWD sets rates after considering COL water rate increases, our prior-year losses, cash reserve, and an informed estimate of expected water usage. Uncertainty in water usage driven by rainfall patterns during the summer directly impacts District revenue. For this reason, the EBCWD Board determined that a restructuring of our water rates was necessary and finalized our 2026 Rates at the Water Rate Hearing held on December 8, 2025.

Starting January 1, 2026, the pro forma annual operational costs to run and maintain the District's system will be divided equally among District members as a **System Operations Fee** of $102 per month. This will help ensure the District minimizes losses each fiscal year, regardless of the amount of water purchased from the COL. Members with water meters will pay a connection fee (similar to the COL connection fee we are charged) in addition to water usage fees based on the rates we pay the City of Lafayette + 5% to replenish our cash reserves.

2026 EBCWD Water rates	
EBCWD Systems Operations Fee	$102.00
Water Usage	**Marginal Rate per 1000 gallons**
Connected Water Meter Fee	$25.91
0 > to 3,000 gallons	$6.65
4,000 to 8,000 gallons	$10.33
9,000 to 16,000 gallons	$14.00
17,000 to 25,000 gallons	$17.99
> 25,000 gallons	$23.31

Our 2026 budget indicates that this new rate structure will enable us to generate a cash surplus—our first in four years—of approximately $25,000, which will be used to increase cash reserves from $280k to $305,000.

The 2026 water rate schedule is attached to this letter. These changes are necessary to stop the annual losses we have incurred since the Marshall Fire and will reverse the negative trend of the District's cash reserves. Our duty is to ensure the resilience of the District so that we all have a reliable source of water for our families, both today and in the future. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

East Boulder County Water District

Marsh Lavenue Ph.D.
Board Chair & President
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