ALISO WATER DISTRICT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF A SPECIAL BENEFIT ASSESSMENT

The purpose of this Notice is to provide you with information about the "assessment ballot proceeding" to be conducted by the Aliso Water District (the "District") and its effect on real property that you own. This notice is being sent to you in accordance with Sections 53753, 53759.1, and 53759.2 of the California Government Code, and Article XIIID, Section 4, of the California Constitution. The District is seeking approval from landowners to levy an increase to its existing land-based special assessment for operational expenses.

A Public Hearing on this matter will be held **at 1:30 p.m. on June 30, 2026, at the Aliso Water District office located at 13991 Avenue 7, Madera, California 93637.**

At the public hearing, the District shall receive landowners' ballots for and against the proposed increased assessment. If you wish to comment on this matter, you are invited to do so at the public hearing.

Background

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) became law in 2015. SGMA requires local governments in high and medium priority basins to halt overdraft and to bring groundwater basins into balanced levels of pumping and recharge. Specifically, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are required to manage basins sustainably and must adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) to work towards the goal of reaching groundwater sustainability by 2040. To keep as much local control of groundwater regulation as possible, the District elected to serve as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the lands within its boundaries, which overlie the Delta-Mendota Subbasin.

Historically, the District's operations were funded through voluntary contributions from its landowners. SGMA resulted in significant new obligations for the District, and additional funding was required. In 2020, District landowners authorized a maximum annual assessment of $21.59 per acre for the District's operations costs (the Operations Assessment), based on the anticipated annual operational costs for the five-year period of 2020 through 2024.

Unfortunately, the challenges of complying with SGMA proved more burdensome than anticipated. Specifically, the Department of Water Resources rejected the District's (along with the other Delta-Mendota GSA's) attempts to maintain separate, region-specific GSPs, which resulted in the development of a single GSP for the entire subbasin. The District adopted this new, subbasin-wide GSP in 2024. This GSP imposes significantly greater burdens on the District than budgeted when setting the current Operations Assessment. The District's Board of Directors (the Board) does not believe the amount of the current Operations Assessment is sufficient to cover operational costs going forward under the 2024 GSP.

Proposed Assessment Increase

The District is seeking approval to increase the current annual Operations Assessment to a maximum of $90.00 per acre, to generate a maximum of approximately $2.37 million per year in revenue

The amount of the increased assessment is based on a five-year budget projection from 2026 through 2030, which considers five key cost components: Administration, Consulting and Legal Services, Groundwater Monitoring, SGMA Compliance, and Contingencies. These components are shown in the table below and are described in greater detail in the "*Engineer's Report for the Aliso Water District: Proposition 218 Procedures for Benefit Assessments*" (Engineer's Report), available for review on the District's website (www.alisowdgsa.org) and at the District's office. The Engineer's Report serves as the written basis for the proposed increased assessments.

Each year the Board will set the actual assessment amount, based on the annual budget, at a publicly noticed Board meeting. Assessments will continue beyond 2030. Note that the assessment amount may vary from year to year, but will not exceed the maximum of $90.00 per acre unless an increase is approved by the landowners.

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Proposed Operations Assessment

Assessment ($/acre)	2026-2030
Administration	$16.97
Consulting and Legal Services	13.86
Groundwater Monitoring	9.49
SGMA Compliance	41.96
Contingencies	7.72
Total Proposed Assessment ($/acre)	**$90.00**

If approved, the proposed increased assessment will become effective for the 2026-27 fiscal year, and will be reflected in November 2026 property tax bills.

Public Hearing Regarding Increased Assessment

Enclosed with this notice, you will find an assessment ballot, which states your property's Assessor's Parcel Number(s) and acreage, as well as the maximum total amount of the annual assessment proposed to be levied on your property.

At the public hearing, the District shall consider all protests against the proposed increase to the Operations Assessment and tabulate the ballots. The District shall not impose the increased assessment if ballots submitted in opposition to the increased assessment exceed the ballots submitted in favor of the increased assessment. In tabulating the ballots, the ballots shall be weighted according to the proportional financial obligation of the affected property.

Please follow the directions listed below and on the assessment ballot to express your view on the proposed maximum assessment:

- Please check the line before the word "YES" or "NO," and then sign, date, and place the ballot in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. Please note your name and address on the return envelope and mail or hand deliver your ballot to the District at 13991 Avenue 7, Madera, California 93637.
- Prior to the public hearing on June 30, 2026, you may mail your own ballot in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.
- Prior to the public hearing on June 30, 2026, you may hand deliver your own ballot during business hours (9 am – 3 pm) to the District at 13991 Avenue 7, Madera, California 93637.
- Hand delivered ballots will also be accepted at the hearing prior to the close of the public input portion of the hearing.
- **In any event, ballots *MUST* be received by the District no later than the conclusion of the public hearing, which starts at 1:30 p.m. on June 30, 2026.**
- Late ballots delivered after the conclusion of that public hearing will not be counted.
- In the event that more than one of the record owners of an identified parcel submits an assessment ballot, the amount of the proposed assessment to be imposed upon the identified parcel shall be allocated to each ballot submitted in proportion to the respective record ownership interests or, if the ownership interests are not shown on the record, as established to the satisfaction of the agency by documentation provided by those record owners.

You may change your vote at any time prior to the conclusion of the public hearing on this matter. However, because the ballots must remain sealed until the tabulation begins, you will be provided a replacement ballot on which you can cast your new vote. A ballot will not be accepted or counted if:

- It is delivered in a manner that fails to conceal its vote;
- It is a photocopy without an original signature;

- It is unsigned;
- It lacks an identifiable "yes" or "no" vote;
- It appears to have been tampered with or otherwise invalid based upon its appearance or method of delivery; or
- It is late.

At the conclusion of the public hearing, assessment ballots submitted and not withdrawn shall be tabulated, in support of or opposition to the proposed increased assessment. The tabulation results will be posted in the District's office as soon as practical and on the District website www.alisowdgsa.org.

Objections Based on Failure to Comply with Prop 218/Art. XIII D

If you believe that the District has failed to comply with the requirements of Proposition 218/Article XIII D of the California Constitution in imposing the increased assessment, you must timely submit a written objection to the District that specifies the grounds for alleging noncompliance. Failure to timely object in writing bars any right to challenge the proposed increased assessment through a legal proceeding,

Written Objections must be clearly labeled on the outside of an envelope and contain the landowner's full name and identification of the parcel(s) by county and assessor's parcel number(s). If the outside of the envelope is not clearly labeled as an objection to the proposed assessment, it will not be considered properly submitted.

To be considered timely, written objections must be received at the District offices not later than 3:00 p.m. on June 19, 2026. Objections may be mailed or delivered during business hours to the District at 13991 Avenue 7, Madera, California 93637.

A written objection on the grounds that the District has failed to comply with the requirements of Proposition 218/Article XIII D is completely independent from a vote in favor or against the assessment itself using the enclosed ballot. A written objection cannot be combined with a ballot and must be submitted separately, if desired.

Staff will review timely submitted written objections, prepare written responses, and present any timely received written objections and written responses to the District Board of Directors before the close of the public hearing described herein on June 30, 2026.

Should you have any questions, please call or write to: Aliso Water District 13991 Avenue 7, Madera, California 93637; telephone (559) 431-5489.; email info@alisowdgsa.org.

Dated: April 28, 2026

Roy Catania, Board President