

Understanding Your Water Rate



Juan de Fuca Water Distribution Service

Capital Regional District | 2026

Juan de Fuca Water Distribution Service

CRD Infrastructure and Water Services operates the Juan de Fuca (JdF) Water Distribution System water reservoirs and transmission systems. The water supply comes from the Regional Water Supply System and supplies drinking water to approximately 58,000 residential and business customers in the Westshore municipalities, the District of Sooke, and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area.

What is the water rate?

The CRD sets the retail water rate each year to ensure sufficient funding to support the operation, maintenance, and safe delivery of drinking water throughout the Juan de Fuca water distribution system which includes storage reservoirs, pump stations, pressure control stations, water mains, valves, fire hydrants and retail water meters.

The 2026 CRD JdF Water Distribution Service retail water rate is \$3.04 per cubic metre, a 6.95% increase over the 2025 rate.

How is the water rate calculated?

Each year, the total amount needed to fund the service is divided by the estimated water demand. This ensures the rate covers the full cost of delivering the service.

What does it pay for?

The entire cost of operating and maintaining the Juan de Fuca Water Distribution System is funded entirely through the sale of drinking water to the service area customers. These costs include day to day operations and maintenance, as well as long term capital investments such as upgrades, repairs, and the replacement of aging infrastructure. They also include repaying debt from past major projects that continue to deliver value today.

The retail water rate also includes the cost of purchasing the treated water from the Regional Water Supply Service at the wholesale rate. The 2026 CRD Regional Water Supply wholesale water rate is \$0.93 per cubic metre. More information on the Regional Water Supply Service, including the wholesale water rate and the associated cost drivers, can be found at www.crd.ca/watersupply.

Developers cover the cost of extending water infrastructure for new homes or businesses. They either pay for design and construction directly or through the Juan de Fuca Water Development Cost Charge Program, which collects fees as development occurs in the service area.

Why did the JdF Water Distribution water rate increase in 2026?

The rate increase is necessary as a result of:

- Increases in operating expenses associated with water distribution system operation, maintenance and repair costs.
- Increased bulk water purchase expense due to the increasing Regional Water Supply Wholesale

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water rate in 2026.

- In 2026 we are adding additional resources to support our residential meter and service line replacement program. Many of these assets are aging and at greater risk of failure.
- Annual capital funding and debt expenditures associated with ongoing capital infrastructure upgrades and renewal, and previous project funding requirements. The 2026 capital plan anticipates \$26.6.4 million in capital projects, including \$17.9 million in projects that are in progress or are multi-year projects and \$1.89 million in project costs shared with the Regional Water Supply Service. Major projects planned for 2026 including the:
 - Sooke Road Water Main Replacement (Sooke Road between Jacklin Road and Veteran Memorial Parkway)
 - Highway 14 Water Main Relocation (intersection improvements at Highway 14 and Idlemore Street)
 - Ongoing upgrades to aging pump stations within the system

Reliable water service is essential to the region's health, economy, and emergency preparedness. As climate change brings more extreme weather, existing infrastructure ages and the population continues to grow, investment in system replacement, redundancy and seismic resilience becomes even more important. By continuing to invest in our water system we can ensure water continues to flow to homes, hospitals, businesses, and critical services.