

# PROP. 218: The FID Issues

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- Defending water rights and entitlements of both FID water users and the entire Kings River.

These factors, General Manager Stretch says, represent “an investment in your land. FID’s extensive water rights directly influence high land values observed within the District.”

He said a recent farm appraisal analysis illustrated that “thanks to surface water supply, land in FID was valued as high as \$45,000 per acre, while lands in Fresno County with no district water were valued as low as \$10,000 per acre.

“Benefits of a successful Proposition 218 will come back into the hands of the landowners FID serves,” Stretch added.

The proposed assessment includes an initial water service rate increase in 2024 to \$89 per acre, or about \$35.60 per acre-foot of water.

Gradual increases would follow, reaching a total water service rate of \$128.75 per acre or approximately \$51.50 for an acre-foot in 2028.

Even with increased assessments, FID’s rates would remain some of the state’s lowest, District officials point out.

## Balloting And A Public Hearing

Ballots will be mailed to all landowners in early April. The Fresno Irrigation District will conduct a public hearing to tabulate the ballots on June 8, 2023, at 3 p.m. The hearing will be held at FID’s main office located at 2907 South Maple Avenue in Fresno. It will precede a regular board meeting.

You are invited to participate in the hearing and provide comments. All ballots must be returned by the close of the public hearing to be counted for this Proposition 218 election.

Submitting your ballot is easy, accessible, and can be done by one of several ways:

- By mail, send your ballot to the address on the self-addressed envelope included with the ballot. Be sure to add postage
- In person, drop your ballot off at the Fresno Irrigation District’s secured main office ballot box.
- At the public hearing on June 8 at 3 p.m., drop off your ballot before the hearing concludes.

The term of Proposition 218 is five years. If approved, rates could not be set higher than those approved in the election without another election.

Detailed information and a rate classification breakdown are easily accessible on the District’s website under *FAQs*, *Educational Handout* or the *Engineer’s Report*. The latter is by far the most detailed. The FID website is [www.fresnoirrigation.com](http://www.fresnoirrigation.com).

The engineering report, adopted by FID’s Board of Directors in January, states, “These amounts are to be used to partially fund that portion of the District’s budget currently funded by annual sales of water both inside and outside the District. FID’s board desires to reduce the amount of water marketed outside of the District to fund these District costs.”

Board President Ryan Jacobsen observes, “If the election passes, the Board will set the assessment rate annually. FID will use assessment dollars to develop and maintain surface water infrastructure and protect the legacy of our landowners against the impacts of drought, increasing regulatory requirements, and protecting our existing Kings River water supply.”

Should the Proposition 218 measure not pass, District officials say, FID will be unable to compensate for a resulting budget shortfall to cover operational costs or expenses for defense of FID’s water rights. They add that surface water infrastructure would inevitably deteriorate, leading to supply disruptions, less efficient delivery and potential water supply losses.

FID holds one of the strongest water supply rights on the Kings River. Annually, the District typically provides 4-5 months of water service and each year averages delivery of 500,000 acre-feet.

“Compared to other irrigation districts, the proposed assessment relative to the water supply benefit delivers a high return to our landowners,” Stretch says.

Voter approval would enable FID to:

- Maintain, improve and restore surface water infrastructure.
- Defend Kings River water rights.
- Capture additional water for recharge during wet years. That is considered to be vital for recharging the aquifer and improving FID’s water table.
- Progress toward groundwater sustainability required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.
- Maintenance activities to ensure facilities run efficiently.

## Questions?

FID will host community meetings where you can learn answers to questions you may have about the proposed assessments. Meetings will be held in:

**CLOVIS** — *Tuesday, April 18 in the Clovis Veterans Memorial Building, 808 Fourth Street, at 6 p.m. (doors opening at 5:30 p.m.).*

**KERMAN** — *Thursday, April 20 in the Kerman Community Center, 15101 West Kearney Boulevard, at 8:30 a.m. (doors opening at 8 a.m.).*

**EASTON** — *Wednesday, April 26 in the CPDES Hall, 172 West Jefferson Avenue, at 8:30 a.m. (doors opening at 8 a.m.).*

FID staff members are available for any questions regarding the Proposition 218 election. Telephone us at (559) 233-7161 or e-mail [Prop218@fresnoirrigation.com](mailto:Prop218@fresnoirrigation.com).

- Support a stable and skilled local workforce.
- Retain valuable institutional knowledge of water management and operations.

Should the measure fail, FID predicts the District would:

- Lose out on additional groundwater recharge and face a potential lowering of groundwater levels, resulting in the need for deeper wells and the risk of parts of the aquifer permanently drying.
- Risk higher employee turnover and difficulty attracting a highly-skilled workforce, which would further risk negative impacts to operations and maintenance.

## VISIT US ONLINE

Information about the Fresno Irrigation District is available on-line. With just a few keystrokes, you can receive answers to your questions. Visit us at:

[www.fresnoirrigation.com](http://www.fresnoirrigation.com)

Join our mailing list  
and never miss an update!

SGMA: For current Sustainable Groundwater Management Act information, visit

[northkingsgsa.org](http://northkingsgsa.org)

Or

[fresnoirrigation.com/sgma](http://fresnoirrigation.com/sgma)

Or visit us on social media!