

Top Ten Most Expensive Water Providers in the Country: 2017 Update

In 2015, Food & Water Watch surveyed the 500 largest community water systems in the United States to find out how much they charge a typical household using 60,000 gallons a year.¹ Since then, California American Water — a state arm of the nation’s largest private water corporation² — has substantially increased its water rates on the Monterey Peninsula, California.³ In April 2017, we reexamined the 10 most expensive providers to see how their rates have changed. Among these systems, California American Water charges typical Monterey households the highest water rates.

New Rank	Old Rank	Utility	State	Owner	2015 Bill	2017 Bill	Increase	% Increase
1	9	California American Water – Monterey	CA	Private	\$716.18	\$1,202.59	\$486.41	68%
2	2	Padre Dam Municipal Water District	CA	Public	\$826.94	\$959.27	\$132.33	16%
3	8	Goleta Water District	CA	Public	\$736.62	\$958.55	\$221.94	30%
4	3	Pennsylvania American Water – West	PA	Private	\$792.84	\$847.59	\$54.75	7%
5	4	Pennsylvania American Water – Pittsburgh	PA	Private	\$792.84	\$847.59	\$54.75	7%
6	5	Pennsylvania American Water – Lake Scranton	PA	Private	\$792.84	\$847.59	\$54.75	7%
7	6	Pennsylvania American Water – Norristown	PA	Private	\$792.84	\$847.59	\$54.75	7%
8	10	West Virginia American Water – Kanawha Valley	WV	Private	\$710.63	\$827.37	\$116.74	16%
9	7	Aqua Pennsylvania	PA	Private	\$782.38	\$782.38	\$-	0%
10	1	Flint	MI	Public	\$910.05	\$710.83	\$(199.22)	-22%

NOTES: Annual bills were calculated for households using 60,000 gallons a year, using rates inside the main service area, as of January 2015 and April 2017.

Endnotes

- 1 Food & Water Watch. “The State of Public Water in the United States.” February 2016.
- 2 American Water Works Corporation, Inc. U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Form 10-K. February 21, 2017 at 3 and exhibit 21.1.
- 3 Johnson, Jim. “Cal Am water bills to rise as much as 79 percent by March; more increases pending.” *Monterey County Herald*. January 21, 2017.