

3 May 2026

Office of the commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Fl. 32399-0850

Docket # 20250108-WS

The timing of this proposed rate increase is alarming. I received this notice by mail on 2 May 2026. Since over half of our residents are winter only by the time the mail forwards this notice to them they will not have time to respond. No where in this packet does it mention the actual percent of the rate increase they are seeking. It appears to me that the percent is a 78% increase. If I use the revenue and expense provided it would indicate a 7.6% increase should be indicated.

Sunlake requires us to water our lawns and pressure wash our homes. This along with washing our cars, golf carts and driveways are additional water usage that never goes thru the waste water treatment plant yet we are billed accordingly.

I am enclosing the letter sent to by Sunlake. The letter tries to down play the effect of this astronomical rate increase while it implies that PSC has requested this. It also states that rates have been historically low for many years but a simple google search shows that current rates are in line with statewide averages. A copy of this search is included.

We are a retirement community , most of which are living on fixed incomes. No matter how this has been disguised it will have a very negative effect on all our senior citizens.

Thank you for your consideration on this very important rate increase.

A concerned resident.

George Vaughn
1645 SHADY LN
Grand ISLAND, FL. 32735

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2025 MAY 12 PM 3:08
COMMISSION
CLERK

4/23/2026



Dear Sunlake Estates Resident(s),

We understand that many of you may have questions or concerns regarding the notice included with this letter that was issued by the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) about a suggested water rate adjustment for Sunlake Estates Utilities. We want to take this opportunity to provide additional context and clarification, as some information in the notice may understandably raise concerns or cause confusion.

First, we want to address the example bill impacts shown in the PSC issued notice. Some residents may see the highest usage examples and assume their monthly water bill could increase dramatically. In reality, the higher bill examples reflect significantly above average water usage and do not apply to most households. Typical residential usage is much lower than the highest examples included in the notice. Most residents will see bills that align with more moderate usage levels. The purpose of these examples is to show how usage levels affect costs, not to suggest that all residents will experience the highest increases shown.



The PSC justifies this suggested increase due to water rates at Sunlake Estates have being historically low for many years, even as the cost of operating, maintaining, and improving the system has continued to rise. When water is priced well below the true cost of service, it can unintentionally encourage higher than normal consumption. In some cases, homes may use far more water than typical residential levels, placing additional strain on the utility infrastructure. A rate structure that more closely aligns cost with usage helps promote responsible water consumption and supports the long term reliability of the system for the entire community.

The PSC filing also references “unaccounted for water,” which we know may cause concern. It is important to clarify that residents are not being charged for missing water. Your bill is based solely on the water usage measured by the meter serving your home. Unaccounted for water is a system level figure and typically reflects factors such as line loss, leaks, routine flushing, fire protection use, or other operational needs. These system factors are not individually billed to residents beyond their actual metered consumption.

Over recent years, significant investments have been made to maintain reliable service, address aging infrastructure, and ensure the system continues to meet state standards. These improvements are necessary to support long term service quality and public health.

We recognize that utility matters are important and that notices regarding potential rate changes can feel alarming when the details are not immediately clear. Our goal is to be transparent and proactive in communicating what the PSC notice means, what it does not mean, and how water charges are actually determined.

We will continue to monitor this process closely, work with regulators as required, and communicate with residents as additional information becomes available. Thank you for your patience and for being part of the Sunlake Estates community.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Rayborn
Regional Vice President, MH Operations
SRayborn@suncommunities.com



Sunlake Estates

1045 Great Lakes Blvd | Grand Island | Florida | 32735

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Average Cost Of Water Bill In Florida 2026

June 8, 2025

Average Cost Of Water Bill In Florida

Water bills in Florida vary widely depending on several factors such as location, household size, water usage, and the specific water utility provider. Florida

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in Florida helps consumers budget effectively and identify opportunities for water conservation.

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Factor	Average Monthly Cost (USD)	Notes
Statewide Average	\$45-\$70	Includes water and sewer charges
Residential (Average Household)	\$50-\$65	Based on 6,000 gallons monthly usage
Urban Areas (Miami, Orlando)	\$55-\$75	Higher rates due to infrastructure and demand
Rural Areas	\$30-\$50	Lower usage and rates typical
Commercial Users	Varies widely	Depends on business size and industry

Factors Influencing Water Bill Costs In Florida

The water bill in Florida is influenced by various factors that impact both the unit price of water and the total usage. **Key components include:**

B.M. Vaughn
1645 SHADY LN.
Grand Island, FL 32735

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ORLANDO FL 328

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