

## Comments and Written Protests

Any affected property owner may submit a written protest to the proposed increase to the sewer rates; provided, however, only one protest will be counted per parcel. Each protest must (1) be in writing; (2) state that the identified property owner opposes the proposed increases to the sewer rates; (3) identify the parcel for which the protest is made (by assessor's parcel number or street address); and (4) include the signature of the property owner. Protests submitted by e-mail, facsimile, or other electronic means will not be counted. Written protests may be submitted by mail to the **City Clerk at 330 W. 20th Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94403** or at the public hearing, so long as the protests are received before the public hearing ends. Please identify on the envelope for any written protest, whether mailed or submitted in person to the City Clerk, that the enclosed written protest is for the Public Hearing on the Proposed Sewer Rate Increase.

During the public hearing, the City Council will hear all public testimony and consider all written protests. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the City Council will decide whether to adopt the proposed sewer rates. Oral comments at the public hearing will not qualify as formal protests unless accompanied by a written protest, but the City welcomes your input. If, at the end of the public hearing, written protests against the proposed increases to the sewer rates are not presented by a majority of affected property owners of the identified parcels, the City Council will be authorized to adopt the rates.

**Need More Information?** Please visit our website, [CleanWaterProgramSanMateo.org](http://CleanWaterProgramSanMateo.org). For questions, call (650) 727-6870 or email [info@CleanWaterProgramSanMateo.org](mailto:info@CleanWaterProgramSanMateo.org).



## Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Sewer Rate Increases

This notice is being sent to inform you that the City of San Mateo is proposing to increase sewer rates over the next five years in order to a) continue constructing a new wastewater treatment plant to replace the City's aging treatment facility, b) fund legally-required improvements to the City's sewer collection system to address regulatory requirements and minimize potential for sanitary sewer overflows, c) fund ongoing rehabilitation of aging sewer pipelines, and d) keep rates aligned with the cost of providing sewer service for fiscal year (FY) 2023-24 to FY 2027-28. The rates reflect maximum annual rates over the five-year period.

In compliance with Article XIIIID of the California State Constitution and the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act, the City is notifying all affected property owners of a Public Hearing to accept public comment & testimony on the proposed sewer rate increases:

**Date: June 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**San Mateo City Hall,**  
**Council Chambers**  
**330 W. 20th Avenue**  
**San Mateo, CA 94403**

## Why the Rate Increases Are Needed

Specifically, the proposed rate increases will enable the City to generate the funding needed to:

- **Continue construction and long-term financing of the City's aging wastewater treatment plant**  
The City's existing wastewater treatment plant includes several facilities which have reached the end of useful life. The treatment plant is being rebuilt to ensure the City can continue to provide high-quality service and meet new regulatory requirements to protect San Francisco Bay.
- **Construct critical improvements to the City's sewer collection system to meet regulatory requirements, prevent sanitary sewer overflows, and replace aging pipelines**  
The City needs to address increased regulatory requirements and issues associated with sanitary sewer overflow prevention, including construction of relief sewer lines and facilities necessary to prevent overflows during heavy rains, as well as increased cleaning, inspection, and rehabilitation of the existing collection system.

- **Keep rates aligned with the cost of providing service**

Pay for the increases in annual operating and maintenance expenses required to meet the City's regulatory permit requirements, fund increasing annual debt service requirements, and keep revenues aligned with the costs of providing wastewater service.

## Proposed Sewer Rates

	Current Rate	Effective Date				
		Aug 1 2023	July 1 2024	July 1 2025	July 1 2026	July 1 2027
<b>Residential</b>						
<b>Fixed Monthly Charge</b> (Charge per dwelling unit)	\$60.14	\$61.94	\$63.80	\$65.71	\$67.68	\$69.71
<b>Sewer Usage Charge</b> (Rate per hundred cubic feet (\$/CCF) of annualized average monthly winter water use)						
Class A Residential	\$11.80	\$12.15	\$12.51	\$12.89	\$13.28	\$13.68
<b>Commercial</b>						
<b>Sewer Usage Charge</b> (Rate per hundred cubic feet (\$/CCF) of annualized average monthly winter water use)						
Class B Standard Strength	\$23.60	\$24.31	\$25.04	\$25.79	\$26.56	\$27.36
Class C Moderate Strength	\$31.00	\$31.93	\$32.89	\$33.88	\$34.90	\$35.95
Class D High Strength	\$42.04	\$43.30	\$44.60	\$45.94	\$47.32	\$48.74
Class E	A limited number of accounts are billed on a case-by-case basis based on sewer rates in effect.					
<b>Minimum Monthly Charge</b> (Commercial bills are subject to the minimum monthly charge)	\$60.14	\$61.94	\$63.80	\$65.71	\$67.68	\$69.71

## Methodology Used to Calculate the Proposed Rates

The proposed sewer rates are based on a cost-of-service analysis that includes a) financial projections to identify future wastewater system funding needs, and b) apportionment of costs and development of rates for each customer class based on factors including the volume and strength of wastewater discharge.

The proposed rates are designed to recover the costs of providing sewer service to each parcel.

## Proposed Sewer Rates

The following table shows current and proposed sewer rates. Residential rates include two components:

1) A Fixed Monthly Charge per residential dwelling unit that is billed independent of usage, and 2) Sewer Usage Charges billed based on metered water usage. Commercial and non-residential customers will continue to be billed Sewer Usage Charges based on customer class and metered usage, subject to a minimum charge. Residential and commercial Sewer Usage Charges are based on metered water usage from the preceding November through March time period (when there is minimal outdoor irrigation) and levied per hundred cubic feet (CCF). One CCF equals approximately 748 gallons.

The City's current sewer rates for a typical residential customer are in the middle range compared to other regional agencies in San Mateo County. The rates for fiscal years 2023-24 through 2027-28 reflect the maximum annual rate increase proposed under this Proposition 218 notice. The City will review the rates each year and determine the actual annual increase up to these maximums.

**Approved sewer rates for 2023-24 would be effective August 1 and effective July 1 for each subsequent fiscal year under the proposed rate structure. Please note sewer charges for most customers are billed annually on the property tax bill.**

## Sample Bill Calculations

### Sample Residential Monthly Sewer Charge

Effective August 1, 2023

The following shows how the sewer service charge would be calculated for a typical Class A residential dwelling unit with 5 CCF average monthly winter water use:

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Average
Water Use (CCF)	5	6	4	4	6	5.0

#### Bill Calculation

Fixed Monthly Charge	Sewer Usage Charge	Total Monthly Charge
\$61.94	\$12.15 x 5.0 units = \$60.75	\$61.94 + \$60.75 = \$122.69

### Sample Commercial Monthly Sewer Charge

Effective August 1, 2023

The following shows how the sewer service charge would be calculated for a Class B – Standard Strength commercial customer with 10 CCF average monthly winter water use:

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Average
Water Use (CCF)	12	9	10	11	8	10.0

#### Bill Calculation

Sewer Usage Charge	Total Monthly Charge
\$24.31 x 10.0 units = \$243.10	\$243.10

**Need Your Water Usage Information?** California Water Company customers may view their consumption history online at <https://www.CalWater.com/>. Customers of other water providers should refer to their water bills to determine consumption or contact the provider directly.