



Sausalito-Marin City Sanitary District

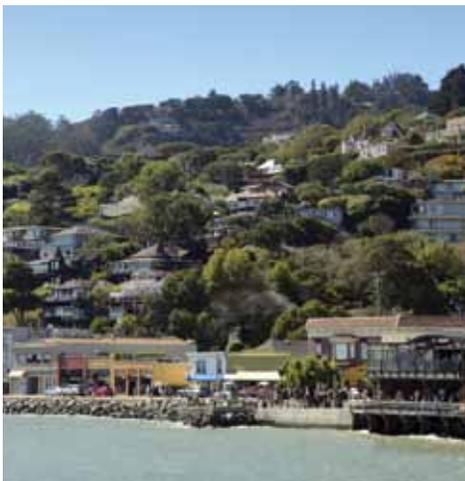
Public Meeting on Rates (April 16 - See Inside for Meeting Details)

Two important questions have been carefully studied over the past two years:

- 1) Are our rates fair for all customer classes?
- 2) Are our rates adequate to ensure continued high quality service to all customers?

The rates below are part of a 5-year plan being presented to the Board and public before final decisions are made this July. The charges shown are still being refined and are approximate.

Proposed Residential Sewer Treatment Charges



SINGLE-FAMILY: Current charge is \$725 annually per dwelling unit (\$60 per month). Proposed to increase to about \$866 over five years (\$72 per month) – a \$12 per month increase at the end of the five year period.

MULTI-FAMILY: Current charge is \$704 annually per dwelling unit (\$59 per month). Proposed to increase to about \$771 over five years (\$64 per month) – a \$5 per month increase at the end of the five year period.

FLOATING-HOME: Current charge is \$672 annually per dwelling (\$56 per month) Proposed to decrease to about \$659 over five years (\$55 per month) – a \$1 per month decrease at the end of the five-year period.

Proposed Non-Residential Sewer Treatment Charge

Below are example charges based on median flow by high, medium, and low strength categories.

LOW STRENGTH (Retail and Office): Current charge is \$1,189 annually (\$99 per month). Proposed to increase to about \$1,280 over five years (\$107 per month)—a \$8 per month increase over five years.

MEDIUM STRENGTH (Deli Markets): Current charge is \$1,878 annually (\$157 per month). Proposed to increase to about \$2,020 over five years (\$168 per month)—an \$11 per month increase over five years.

HIGH STRENGTH (Restaurant and Hotel): Current charge is \$14,797 annually (\$1,233 per month). Proposed to increase to about \$15,908 over five years (\$1,326 per month)—a \$93 per month increase over five years.

Proposed Unincorporated Marin City Collection System Supplemental Sewer Service Charge

This pays for sewer pipeline and pump station operations, upgrades and maintenance for customers in the District's unincorporated service area, including Marin City.

RESIDENTIAL: Every residential dwelling unit currently pays \$55 per year (\$4.58 per month) proposed to increase over five years to \$78 per year (about \$6.50 per month) - a \$2.00 per month increase.

NON-RESIDENTIAL: Pays the same rate per calculated dwelling unit as a residential customer.



Marin City Sewer Rehabilitation Project helps avoid sewer overflows and protects the Bay.



EXPLANATION AND KEY ASPECTS OF THE

The District has carried out a public process over the past year to further evaluate its rates.

This is a summary of key features of the proposed 5-year sewer rate plan program that will be considered at the District’s **MAY 5** Board of Directors meeting.

A final decision and rate adoption is expected at a public hearing that is planned for the **JULY 7** meeting.

PUBLIC MEETING ON CHANGES TO RATES

Join Us

Wednesday, April 16
2:00 PM

City of Sausalito Council Chambers
420 Litho St., Sausalito

Learn More, Provide Input and
Have Your Questions Answered

For More Information:

www.smcsd.net

(415) 332-0244

info@smcsd.net

1. Recognize Differences in Wastewater Flow from Different Residential Customer Classes

Historically, all residential rates were the same for single family, multi-family and floating homes. The District studied its rate structure last year and recognized differences in sewage flow among the residential classes—resulting in a minor decrease for multi-family (3%) and a slightly larger decrease (6%) for floating homes. We are now proposing additional changes as described below.

Flow factor represents the relative amount of wastewater contributed by each class. The more wastewater flow each group contributes the more they should pay. More recently, the District conducted a study to determine how much wastewater different groups of customers contribute. Since there are no wastewater meters to measure flow from different customers, the District used average winter water use over the last five years to estimate wastewater flow.

SINGLE FAMILY HOMES: have a FLOW FACTOR OF 1.0
They generate the most wastewater on average

MULTI-FAMILY HOMES: have a FLOW FACTOR OF 0.73
They generate 73% of the wastewater of single family

FLOATING HOMES: have a FLOW FACTOR OF 0.42
They generate 42% of the wastewater of a single family

Base and Volumetric Costs. The District also undertook a comprehensive review of all operational and capital facility costs, dividing them into two categories:

63% OF ALL COSTS ARE **BASE COSTS** that are fixed and do not vary with flow, such as operating and maintaining the District’s treatment plant, and employee costs. Each residential customer pays the same amount to cover these costs.

37% OF ALL COSTS ARE **VOLUMETRIC COSTS** that can change with wastewater flow, such as chemicals, power, solids disposal. There are also volumetric costs for facilities that have been sized larger to accommodate larger flows. Each customer class pays a different share of volumetric costs based on the amount of flow they contribute to the system as measured by their flow factor: 1.0 for single family homes; 0.73 for multi-family; and 0.42 for floating homes.

The combined Base and Volumetric Costs Determine Rates for Each Customer Class. Every residential customer pays an equal share of Base Costs. Customer classes with less flow, pay a smaller percentage of volumetric costs. The overall result is that Single Family homes pay the most for sewer service, Multi-Family homes pays less than Single Family, and Floating Homes pay the least for sewer service. The proposed sewer rates are shown on page 1.



PROPOSED RATE CHANGES

2. Increase Sewer Service Charge By 2% Per Year for All Customers to Keep Up With Costs

The District requires \$46 million in wastewater system improvements in the coming decade. We have been saving money so that annual increases of only about 2% each year are needed to keep pace with rising costs of supplies, power, chemicals and services, and to pay for the low-cost state loan that is expected to fund many of the wastewater system upgrades.

3. Increase the Unincorporated Area Collection System Supplemental Sewer Service Charge

The collection system Supplemental Charge pays for critically needed sewer pipeline and pump station maintenance and upgrades in the District's unincorporated service area, including Marin City. Every residential unit pays the same amount. Non-residential (commercial) customers pay based on their flow measured in Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs). The proposed sewer rates are shown on page 1.

NOTE: The City owns the sewer pipeline collection system within its boundaries and has its own charge to maintain it. If you live within the City, you do not pay the District for this service; you pay the City of Sausalito on a separate billing.



Non-Residential (Commercial) Charges

Commercial sewer service charges have always been based on wastewater flow and strength (the type of sewage). They also are proposed to receive the same 2% revenue increases and rate structure changes. Because non-residential customers' strength and flow vary dramatically, each receives their own calculated sewer charge that differs for each customer.

The flow component is measured in Equivalent Dwelling Units. One EDU is currently an estimated 180 gallons per day and is proposed to be changed to 200 based on average dry weather flows into the treatment plant. This change will generally result in a lower increase in charges.

The proposed sewer rates and examples of what a typical customer will pay in each non-residential customer class is shown on page 1.

Additional Features of the Proposed Rate Changes

A number of issues have been evaluated as part of the rate program. Below is the recommended direction on a number of key issues.

FLOATING HOME BILLING. The District will continue billing individual floating homes on their property tax bill instead of a single bill to Marina owners.

LIFELINE RATE FOR LOW AND FIXED INCOME. Evaluate providing a 5% discount to customers who qualify.

NOTE: You may have received information about a sewer rate study being conducted by the City of Sausalito.

These rates are for the City of Sausalito sewer collection system, which they own and operate independently from the District and charge City residents directly.

We use a bulk mailing system to lower costs. If you receive this and are not a customer, we apologize.

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
UNICORN GROUP

General Manager
Craig Justice

Directors
Dan J. Rheiner, President
William F. H. Ring, Vice-President
Ann Arnott
Donald L. Beers
James DeLano

Board Secretary
Rebecca Vaughn



ECRWSS Postal Customer

**Sausalito-Marin City
Sanitary District**

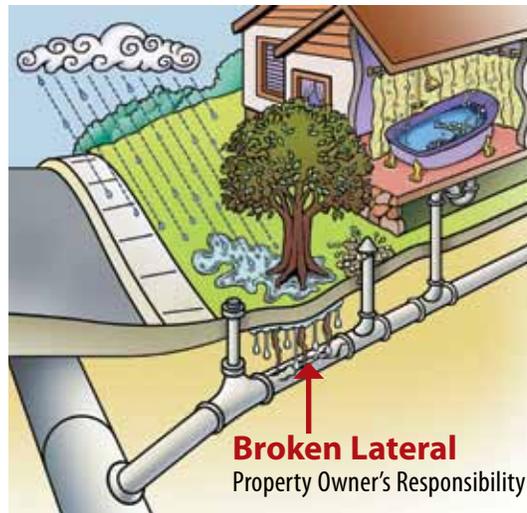
1 East Road
Sausalito, CA 94965
Phone: (415) 332-0244
www.smcsd.net



**LOW-INTEREST LOANS OF UP TO \$10,000 FOR
LATERAL REPAIR**

**Available With a
10-Year Payback Period**

Your sewer lateral is the private sewer line that connects your home or building to the public sewer main. Many laterals are damaged, allowing stormwater to percolate into them. The stormwater mixes with sewage, leading to spills, environmental harm and costly fines and cleanup bills.



**Simple Steps to Inspect and
Repair Your Lateral**

1. Have the lateral video-inspected and repaired when you have backups, overflows or when it is damaged.
2. Use a licensed plumber to do the inspection and make any repairs.
3. You may apply for a loan if you are in the Sausalito-Marin City Sanitary District (Unincorporated Marin City) service area.

More information about the lateral loan program can be found at www.smcsd.net or by calling (415) 332-0244. Residents of the City of Sausalito should contact the City about City lateral programs.

Printed on recycled paper. Each ton of recycled paper saves 7,000 gallons of water.

*Welcome
to the
District's
Newest
Director*



*James DeLano
was elected last November as the
most recent member of the Board.*

**NEVER FLUSH
WIPES OR STRINGS**

**Even if wipes say they are
flushable, they are not!**

Wipes, floss and tampon strings are among the biggest causes of sewer overflows and clogs.

Baby, feminine hygiene, household cleaning, and cosmetic wipes wrap around strings and other stuff to create a solid mass that clogs sewers!