



# Sausalito-Marín City Sanitary District

## How the District has kept costs low and efficiency high:

- Cross-trained employees, for increased staff flexibility and efficiency.
- Implemented new technologies that have made it possible to reduce an already lean staff by 20%, from 10 to 8 full time employees, while improving service.
- Currently evaluating ways to cut \$60,000 a year from testing costs without impacting quality.
- Expanded chemical storage facilities, saving \$21,000 per year by allowing acceptance of full tanker truck deliveries.

## Rates Stable Since 1995

### Rates Per Residence or Dwelling Unit Per Month

1995 No Increase	\$13.33
1996 No Increase	\$13.33
1997 No Increase	\$13.33
1998 No Increase	\$13.33
1999 No Increase	\$13.33
2000 No Increase	\$13.33
2001 No Increase	\$13.33
2002 Proposed	\$16.42
2003 Proposed	\$20.17
2004 Proposed	\$24.83

## NOTICE TO RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERS OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED INCREASE IN SEWER SERVICE CHARGES

*(Please share this information with tenants)*

**Wednesday, August 7, 7:30 p.m.,  
Sausalito City Council Chambers  
420 Litho Street, Sausalito CA**

### Why A Rate Increase Is Needed

After almost a decade of holding the line on costs with no increase in rates, the District has found that it must now raise rates. Among the causes: pipelines, pumps, the treatment plant and other facilities that are now nearing one-half century old, and require millions of dollars in upgrades, along with the cumulative impact of inflation

#### Well Maintained But Aging System

Engineering studies by independent consultants concluded that while the District's half-century old system is well maintained, it is aging and requires substantial, ongoing improvements to ensure that the system continues to meet state and federal quality and reliability standards. The system includes pipelines, pumps and a wastewater treatment plant.

#### New Rates: Enough For Essential Needs

A study by an independent financial firm concluded that the proposed rate increases will provide just enough funds for the District to pay for the costs of operations, maintenance, administration, essential capital improvements, as well as meet emergency and other reserve needs during the next 10-years. Instead of borrowing money, the District has selected a pay-as-you-go approach that saves money in the long run.

### Residential and Multi-Family Rates

The proposed rate increase would be phased in over three years. The current charge for a single family residence and for each unit in multi-family buildings is \$160 per year (\$13.33 per month). This would rise to \$197 per year starting in July 2002, \$242 per year starting in July 2003, and \$298 per year starting in July 2004. If approved, the first of the rate changes would take effect in July 2002 and show up on annual property tax bills in November 2002.

## Please Contact Us

If you have questions or comments about the proposed sewer rate increase or wish to protest, you may:

**Address The Directors:** Attend the Public Hearing on August 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sausalito City Council Chambers, 420 Litho St.

**Phone:** at 332-0244.

**E-mail:** ann-smcsd@2xtreme.net

**Write:** No. 1 Fort Baker Rd., Sausalito, CA 94966.

*Protests against the proposal must be submitted in writing, must identify the owner(s) of the property or properties for which the protest is entered, and be signed by the property owner. If written protests against the proposed sewer service charge rates are presented by a majority of owners of parcels affected, the District will not approve the charge.*



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## Note for Residents in Unincorporated Areas

Customers in unincorporated areas, including Marin City, are charged an additional amount for the repair and maintenance of their wastewater collection pipelines. This charge is currently \$40 per year. It will increase to \$43.34 starting in July 2002, \$47.19 per year starting in July 2003, and \$50.66 per year starting in July 2004.

## Fairness Principle

Customers pay only for the actual cost of their service. Rates are based on two factors: the quantity of flow and its strength (cost to process in the treatment plant).

**Flow.** Rates are based on Equivalent Dwelling Units, or EDUs. One EDU is equal to the typical water use by a single-family home or dwelling unit each day (180 gallons).

Current Annual Charge	July 2002	July 2003	July 2004
\$160 per EDU	\$197 per EDU	\$242 per EDU	\$298 per EDU

**Strength.** Domestic sewage, produced by residential customers, is the standard against which higher strength commercial and industrial sewage discharges are measured. The loading factor for residential customers is 1.0. Therefore, the charge for residential users is not influenced by wastewater strength characteristics.

## Commercial Rates

**Note:** Every business has a unique charge based on the volume of its wastewater use (determined by its metered water use) and its strength factor. Commercial property owners will receive a separate written notice with specific charges for each property.

## Customer Benefits From Rate Change

- Upgrade essential facilities, improving reliability and better protecting public health and the environment
- Meet strict new regulations
- Share costs fairly based on actual cost of service
- Lower customer costs by avoiding borrowing and by improving economy of operation

## Important Information About Your Sewer Rates and Service If You Have Questions, Please Call (415) 332-0244

**Board of Directors:** William R. Berkman, President;  
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**Sausalito-Marine City  
Sanitary District**  
#1 Fort Baker Rd  
Sausalito CA 94966  
Phone: 332-0244

**To the Property Owner(s) at  
Assessor Parcel Number:**