



Ann M. Stillman
Director

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April 26, 2023

Dear Property Owner:

Re: Proposed Sewer Service Rates and Virtual Community Meeting

We are sending this letter to property owners in the Scenic Heights County Sanitation District (District) to provide important information regarding proposed sewer service rate adjustments for the next five fiscal years (2023-2024 through 2027-2028).

We have scheduled a virtual meeting to discuss the proposed increases. At this meeting we will review the financial implications of the District capital improvement projects and other infrastructure and operational challenges facing the District.

The Zoom meeting will be held on:

Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023
Time: 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM
Meeting Platform: Zoom
Meeting Link: bit.ly/SMCRates2023
or use the QR code on the right



To Join by Phone:

Phone Dial-In: (669) 900-9128
Meeting ID: 889 4601 2960
Passcode: 219760

Background

The District is administered by the County of San Mateo Department of Public Works. The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors (Board) is the governing board of the District. The current sewer service rate of \$2,195 per year per equivalent residential unit was adopted for your District in July 2020. The previous increases to the sewer service rates have enabled the District to replace 240 feet of sewer pipes on Scenic Drive in 2020 and pay the costs associated with operations and maintenance of the District's sewer system and treatment of sewage emanating from the District.

Silicon Valley Clean Water (SVCW) owns and operates the sewer treatment plant that treats sewage from the District. Sewage from your District flows through district-owned pipes to the downstream agency (City of San Carlos) and to the sewage treatment plant. The District has an agreement with the City of San Carlos that provides for the District to pay a portion of the costs of maintenance and operation payable by City of San Carlos to SVCW attributable to the treatment of sewage from the District's territory.

Proposed Sewer Service Rates

We are proposing to set new sewer service rates for a five-year period (2023-24 through 2027-28 fiscal years), as shown in the table below:



	Sewer Service Rate (\$/Year Per Equivalent Residential Unit)					
	2022-23	Proposed Rates				
		2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Scenic Heights CSD	\$2,195	\$2,395	\$2,595	\$2,795	\$2,995	\$3,195
<i>\$ increase per Residential Unit</i>		(+200/yr or \$16.67/mo)	(+200/yr or \$16.67/mo)	(+200/yr or \$16.67/mo)	(+200/yr or \$16.67/mo)	(+200/yr or \$16.67/mo)
<i>% increase</i>		9.11%	8.35%	7.71%	7.16%	6.68%

We have evaluated the current sewer service rate in relation to the anticipated District expenses for fiscal years 2023-24 through 2027-28. Based on our analysis of the future cost demands on the District, this rate increase is required in order to pay for the District maintenance and future capital improvement work, increases in sewage treatment costs, and regulatory requirements. The limited ratepayer base of your District is a major contributing factor for these increases.

Your sewer service rate must pay for:

- Operation and maintenance of the District’s sewer collection system
- Repairs to and replacement of the District’s aging pipes
- Inspections of the District’s pipes
- Emergency response and repairs
- A percentage of the operation and maintenance of the SVCW sewer treatment plant
- A percentage of the improvements to the SVCW sewer treatment plant
- Compliance with local, state and federal health, safety and environmental protection regulations

Your District continues to face the challenges of aging sewer pipes that must be replaced to avoid sewer main failures and subsequent overflows, protect public health and safety, and enhance the water quality of the San Francisco Bay.

Community Meeting Date

During the virtual meeting on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 6:30 PM, we will be discussing overall sewer system management, what the previously set rates have supported, provide more detailed information about the sewer service rate calculations, and discuss the impact of capital improvement projects in the District. This information will also be posted on our website (listed below) after the meeting date. Most importantly, we want to hear your comments and input on this issue before we finalize our recommendations to the Board and provide answers to any questions you may have.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, but would like to provide comments please direct them to:

Ann M. Stillman, Director
 Department of Public Works
 County of San Mateo
 555 County Center, 5th Floor
 Redwood City, CA 94063
 or
 e-mail: sewers@smcgov.org

Additional information about your District and the timeline for rate setting can be found on our website at: www.smcgov.org/sewers