



Ann M. Stillman
Director

County Government Center
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April 28, 2023

Dear Property Owner:

Re: Proposed Sewer Service Rates and Virtual Community Meeting - (*Propuesta de incremento de tarifas para los servicios de alcantarillas y junta de comunidad virtual. Para obtener una copia de esta carta en español, puede llamar al 650-363-4100 o visitar a bit.ly/SMCRates2023*)

We are sending this letter to property owners in the Fair Oaks Sewer Maintenance 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: Tuesday, May 16, 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: 818 8460 9226
Passcode: 082414

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 \$1,015 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 approximately 3.3 miles of sewer pipes throughout the District in the past 3 years 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 Redwood City) and to the sewage treatment plant. The District has an agreement with the City of Redwood City that provides for the District to pay a portion of the costs of maintenance and operation payable by City of Redwood City 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
Fair Oaks SMD	\$1,015	\$1,055	\$1,095	\$1,135	\$1,175	\$1,215
\$ increase per Residential Unit		(+40/yr or \$3.33/mo)	(+40/yr or \$3.33/mo)	(+40/yr or \$3.33/mo)	(+40/yr or \$3.33/mo)	(+40/yr or \$3.33/mo)
% increase		3.94%	3.79%	3.65%	3.52%	3.40%

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.

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 improvements to the downstream agency’s sewer collection system
- 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.

During the virtual meeting on Tuesday, May 16, 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. (Informacion adicional acerca de su Distrito y las fechas para incrementar las tarifas se encuentran en nuestro sitio de web: bit.ly/SMCRates2023)