

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SEWER SERVICE RATES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PROTEST INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROPOSED SEWER RATES



The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) Board of Directors will hold a Public Hearing to consider a proposed increased rate schedule for sewer service for residential, commercial and RV / Trailer Park customers. **If approved by the CVWD Board of Directors, the increases will take effect on July 1, 2022, with subsequent increases proposed each July 1 thereafter, through and including July 1, 2026.**

This notice is being sent to all record owners of property upon which the proposed sewer service charges will be imposed and any tenants who are directly liable for the payment of such sewer service charges (i.e., customers of record who are not property owners).

CVWD is dedicated to keeping its customers informed throughout the process. (See the back page titled "How Can I Participate?" to learn more.) More information about the proposed rates for sewer service charges is included in this document and is available at cwwd.org/ratechanges.

PARA OBTENER EN ESPAÑOL LA NOTIFICACIÓN DE ESTA AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA, Y LAS INSTRUCCIONES PARA PROTESTAR A LA PROPUESTA DE LAS TARIFAS DE LA ALCANTARILLA, LLAME AL 760-391-9600.

PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION

DATE: Tuesday, May 10, 2022

TIME: 8 a.m.

LOCATION: 75515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, CA 92211

On September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 361 ("AB 361"), amending the Brown Act to allow for virtual meetings under certain circumstances. AB 361 allows local governments to continue using teleconferencing and virtual meeting technology as long as a gubernatorial "proclaimed state of emergency" exists, and provided CVWD's Board of Directors determines that meeting in person would present an imminent safety risk to attendees.

CVWD's Board of Directors currently anticipates and plans for the public hearing to be held in person at the location listed above. However, should the Board of Directors determine that meeting in person would present an imminent safety risk to attendees, in accordance with the authority granted in AB 361, the Board of Directors may hold the public hearing virtually. If such a determination is made, information on how to attend will be posted at cwwd.org/ratechanges and will be included on the agenda for the meeting at which the public hearing will be held.

See back page for more information on how to participate.



YourWater
is our promise

   
www.cwwd.org



WHY HAVE I RECEIVED THIS NOTICE?

CVWD is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable sewer service to the communities we serve. The rates CVWD charges for sewer service are developed to treat all customers fairly, reflect the cost to provide service, and to protect CVWD's financial stability and its ability to provide the same level of service in the future.

You have received this notice to inform you that CVWD's Board of Directors is considering an increase to its sewer service rates to reflect the current cost of service for each customer.

As part of its commitment to transparency, CVWD is sharing information with the community and seeking input that the Board of Directors will use to make the right decision for CVWD and its ratepayers.

For those who have septic tanks, you may have received this notice because your home has the ability to connect to our sewer system in the future and we are sending this notice to all potential customers. You will not pay sewer service rates unless you connect to the sewer system.

We invite you to review this information and contact us with your questions at publicinfo@cvwd.org.

WHY ARE NEW RATES BEING PROPOSED?

CVWD is updating its sewer rates to reflect the current cost of service for each customer.

Every few years, CVWD reviews its usage and customer profile to identify how costs are incurred and to allocate costs to customers in proportion to the cost of providing sewer service to their properties.

CVWD strives to control costs and make prudent investments to provide the highest level of service to our customers.

To do so, CVWD maintains a long-range financial plan that is updated on a regular basis to capture all of its costs, identify opportunities for reducing cost increases, replace required infrastructure, and ensure that sufficient revenues are available to provide sewer services.

Changes to the cost of service have resulted in modifications to the rate structure.

Some rate components, such as the Charge per Equivalent Sewer Unit (ESU), are increasing, while others, such as the Residential Monthly Account Charge, are decreasing this year.

As a public sewer service provider, CVWD can only charge its customers the costs to provide sewer service. CVWD cannot earn a profit.

When determining sewer rates, CVWD prioritizes the following:

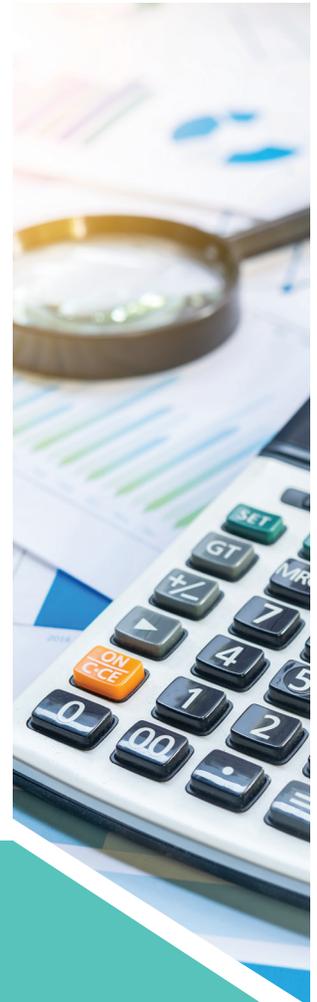
- ✓ Fair treatment of all sewer service customers.
- ✓ Charging customers only the cost to provide sewer service.
- ✓ Protecting CVWD's financial stability.
- ✓ Providing a high level of service.

PROPOSED RATES

CUSTOMER TYPE	CURRENT	EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022	EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023	EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024	EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025	EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026
Residential						
Monthly Account Charge	\$1.58	\$1.55	\$1.69	\$1.73	\$1.91	\$2.07
Monthly charge per ESU	\$23.04	\$24.98	\$27.10	\$29.48	\$31.96	\$34.68
Commercial¹						
Monthly Account Charge	\$3.98	\$4.53	\$4.91	\$5.05	\$5.57	\$6.04
Monthly Charge per ESU	\$23.04	\$24.98	\$27.10	\$29.48	\$31.96	\$34.68
RV/Trailer Park²						
Monthly Account Charge	\$3.98	\$4.53	\$4.91	\$5.05	\$5.57	\$6.04
Monthly Charge per ESU	\$23.04	\$24.98	\$27.10	\$29.48	\$31.96	\$34.68

⁽¹⁾ Commercial Return to Sewer Factor is 90%

⁽²⁾ RV/Trailer Park accounts with Master Meters Return to Sewer Factor is 55%



Understanding Your Bill

CVWD charges customers two fees – a Monthly Account Charge and a Charge per Equivalent Sewer Unit (ESU) — a tool to measure sewer use for non-residential customers. Monthly Account Charges are applied to all accounts, one charge per account.

Residential customers are assigned one ESU per dwelling unit. Each ESU is based on water use and an estimated amount of waste water sent to the sewer system.

All Commercial and master metered RV/Trailer Park ESU assignments change once per year based on a return-to-sewer factor of average daily water usage over the previous three years, divided by 200 (200 gallons per day is the indoor water usage assumed for Residential customers). The ESU assignment remains the same over the course of a year, but may change at the beginning of each subsequent year based on the account's average water usage over the previous three years. CVWD re-assigns ESUs to commercial and RV/Trailer Park accounts on October 1 each year. The ESU factor expresses commercial sewer use in terms of the number of houses that would generate the same volume, but the ESU for all other uses is one per month.



COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 1058
COACHELLA, CA 92236
WWW.CVWD.ORG

PRESORT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 104
PALM DESERT, CA
92260

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

Coachella Valley Water District welcomes your input as its Board of Directors considers the changes explained in this notice. If you have questions or comments, you may:

Call or log-on — More information on the proposed increase is available for review by calling (760) 398-2651, or on our website: cvwd.org/ratechanges.



Write — Any record owner of a parcel upon which the sewer service is or may be imposed, and any tenant who is directly responsible for the payment of the sewer service charges has the right to submit a formal written protest to the proposed rate increase; provided, however, only one protest will be counted per identified parcel.



Any protest must: (1) be in writing; (2) state that the identified property owner or tenant is opposed to the proposed rate increase; (3) provide the location of the identified parcel (by street address, assessor's parcel number, or customer account number); and (4) include the name and signature of the property owner or tenant submitting the protest. Written protests may be submitted by mail to CVWD, Attention: Clerk of the Board, P.O. Box 1058, Coachella CA, 92236, delivered in person to the Clerk of the Board or delivered in person at the public hearing. (Unless a public health emergency requires a virtual meeting). **Written protests must be received by the Clerk of the Board prior to the close of the public hearing in order to be counted toward a majority protest. To ensure the integrity of protests, written protests submitted electronically, whether by email, fax, or otherwise, will not be counted when determining whether a majority protest exists.**

Attend the public hearing — The public hearing will take place at 8 a.m. on May 10, 2022 at the CVWD Steve Robbins Administration Building, 75515 Hovley Lane, Palm Desert, CA 92211. After the public hearing, the Board of Directors may adopt proposed rate increases unless a majority of sewer customers protest in writing. At the public hearing, all members of the public will have an opportunity to speak, but oral comments alone do not qualify as a protest.



For information on how to provide public comment at the meeting, please refer to the May 10, 2022 agenda at cvwd.org/151/Board-Agendas. The agenda is posted at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting and can be found on the District's website. You may also contact the Clerk of the Board at (760) 398-2651 or via email at SBermudez@cvwd.org for additional information.

Public Hearing process — At the public hearing, the Board of Directors will hear all comments from the public and consider all written protests received by the close of the hearing. After the hearing, if the owners and tenants of a majority of parcels who will pay the sewer charges submit written protests in opposition to the proposed rate increase, the increase will not be imposed. If a majority protest is not received, CVWD's Board of Directors may adopt increase rates after considering all the facts.

If adopted, the proposed rates would become effective July 1, 2022, and subsequent increases may be implemented each July 1 thereafter, through and including July 1, 2026.

Please note that there is a 120-day statute of limitations for challenging the sewer service charges should the proposed adjustments to the rates for sewer service charges be adopted.