



# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: PROPOSED CHANGES TO CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WASTEWATER RATES

**Date:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024, 2:00 p.m.  
**Place:** City of Santa Barbara Council Chambers, City Hall, 735 Anacapa Street, Santa Barbara  
Meeting details will be posted no less than 72 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing on the City Council meeting agenda located at [SantaBarbaraCA.gov/CAP](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov/CAP)

## PROPOSED WASTEWATER RATES FOR: FISCAL YEARS 2025, 2026, 2027, AND 2028

You are receiving this notice because our records indicate that you are a City of Santa Barbara utility customer. If you are not a City wastewater customer, please disregard this Notice.

This Notice describes proposed changes to wastewater rates and explains how you can participate in the public process. The City's wastewater rates are based on a comprehensive rate study that uses a rate model to evaluate the cost of wastewater service, as required by Article XIII D, Section 6 of the California constitution.

### Why are wastewater rates changing?

The City's wastewater system plays a leading role in the protection of public health and the environment. Maintaining the wastewater system requires a proactive commitment to investing in the capital infrastructure and resources necessary to keep this vital system operating 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. The proposed rate changes will enable the City to meet the needs of the wastewater system, including operation and maintenance costs, capital improvements, mandated standards of treatment, debt service, contingency reserves, and other financial obligations.

### What goes into a wastewater bill?

Residential wastewater bills are made up of two key components: (1) a volumetric charge based on water usage, and (2) a fixed monthly base charge. For single-family customers, wastewater volumetric charges are not charged above a certain level of water use. Commercial customers are charged the greater of their volumetric charges or minimum monthly bill amount based on meter size.

### How do I stay informed?

- **Watch** City Council meetings online at [SantaBarbaraCA.gov/CityTV](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov/CityTV) or tune in to City TV Channel 18.
- **Explore** information on rate changes at [SantaBarbaraCA.gov/RateChanges](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov/RateChanges).
- **Contact** City staff at (805) 564-5387.
- **Attend** City Council meetings in person or electronically: visit [SantaBarbaraCA.gov/CAP](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov/CAP) for meeting details.

### How will the proposed changes impact my wastewater bill?

The table below shows sample wastewater bills for common service levels.

Customer Class	Account Characteristics	Usage (hcf/mth)	Total Monthly Wastewater Charges		
			Current Bill	FY 25 Proposed Bill	Difference
Single Family Residential	5/8" meter	8	\$61.24	\$66.14	\$4.90
Multi-Family Residential: 1-4 attached units*	1 unit in a small multi-unit complex	4	\$44.12	\$48.02	\$3.90
Multi-Family Residential: 5 or more attached units**	1 unit in a large multi-unit complex	4	\$44.12	\$48.02	\$3.90
Commercial	1" Meter	14	\$90.46	\$93.24	\$2.78

\*Applicable to all accounts serving two to four detached dwelling units, Accessory Dwelling Units served by their own water meter, and all accounts serving a dwelling unit attached to no more than 3 additional dwelling units.

\*\*Applicable to all accounts serving five or more dwelling units, and to accounts serving a dwelling unit attached to 4 or more additional dwelling units.

**TABLE 1— WASTEWATER PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL FIXED & VOLUMETRIC RATES**

1 HCF (hundred cubic feet) = 748 gallons. FY = fiscal year July 1—June 30

Customer Class	Charge Type	Current	Proposed			
			FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
Single Family Residential	Monthly Base Charge (\$/Dwelling Unit)	\$27.00	\$29.90	\$32.74	\$35.85	\$39.26
	Usage Charge up to 8 HCF (\$/HCF)	\$4.28	\$4.53	\$4.96	\$5.43	\$5.95
Multi-Family Residential 4 or less Dwellings	Monthly Base Charge (\$/Dwelling Unit on account)	\$27.00	\$29.90	\$32.74	\$35.85	\$39.26
	Usage Charge (\$/HCF)	\$4.28	\$4.53	\$4.96	\$5.43	\$5.95
Multi-Family Residential 5+ Dwellings	Monthly Base Charge (\$/Dwelling Unit on account)	\$27.00	\$29.90	\$32.74	\$35.85	\$39.26
	Usage Charge (\$/HCF)	\$4.28	\$4.53	\$4.96	\$5.43	\$5.95

Commercial and Commercial High Strength/Industrial customers are charged a fixed charge dependent on meter size (Tables 2-3), or a volumetric charge dependent on the quantity of water consumed (Table 4), whichever is greater.

**TABLE 2— WASTEWATER PROPOSED COMMERCIAL FIXED CHARGES BY METER SIZE**

	5/8"	3/4"	1"	1 1/2"	2"	3"	4"	6"	8"	10"
Current	\$51.69	\$77.54	\$90.46	\$129.23	\$206.76	\$387.68	\$646.13	\$1,292.25	\$2,067.60	\$2,972.18
FY 2025	\$53.28	\$79.92	\$93.24	\$133.20	\$213.12	\$399.60	\$666.00	\$1,332.00	\$2,131.20	\$3,063.60
FY 2026	\$58.34	\$87.51	\$102.10	\$145.85	\$233.36	\$437.55	\$729.25	\$1,458.50	\$2,333.60	\$3,354.55
FY 2027	\$63.88	\$95.82	\$111.79	\$159.70	\$255.52	\$479.10	\$798.50	\$1,597.00	\$2,555.20	\$3,673.10
FY 2028	\$69.95	\$104.92	\$122.41	\$174.87	\$279.79	\$524.61	\$874.36	\$1,748.72	\$2,797.94	\$4,022.04

**TABLE 3— WASTEWATER PROPOSED COMMERCIAL HIGH STRENGTH/INDUSTRIAL FIXED CHARGES BY METER SIZE**

	5/8"	3/4"	1"	1 1/2"	2"	3"	4"	6"	8"	10"
Current	\$59.70	\$89.55	\$104.48	\$149.25	\$238.80	\$447.75	\$746.25	\$1,492.50	\$2,388.00	\$3,432.75
FY 2025	\$66.31	\$99.47	\$116.04	\$165.78	\$265.24	\$497.33	\$828.88	\$1,657.75	\$2,652.40	\$3,812.83
FY 2026	\$72.61	\$108.92	\$127.07	\$181.53	\$290.44	\$544.58	\$907.63	\$1,815.25	\$2,904.40	\$4,175.08
FY 2027	\$79.51	\$119.27	\$139.14	\$198.78	\$318.04	\$596.33	\$993.88	\$1,987.75	\$3,180.40	\$4,571.83
FY 2028	\$87.06	\$130.59	\$152.36	\$217.65	\$348.24	\$652.95	\$1,088.25	\$2,176.50	\$3,482.40	\$5,005.95

**TABLE 4— WASTEWATER PROPOSED VOLUMETRIC RATES (\$/HCF)**

Customer Class	Current	Proposed			
		FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
Commercial	\$5.27	\$6.56	\$7.18	\$7.86	\$8.61
Commercial High Strength/Industrial	\$6.65	\$7.23	\$7.92	\$8.67	\$9.49

**TABLE 5— WASTEWATER PROPOSED STRENGTH SURCHARGES (\$/LB)\*\*\***

	Current	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
BOD (>750 mg/l)	\$0.34	\$0.30	\$0.33	\$0.36	\$0.39
TSS (>850 mg/l)	\$0.48	\$0.58	\$0.64	\$0.70	\$0.77
Ammonia (>90 mg/l)	\$1.17	\$1.37	\$1.50	\$1.64	\$1.80

\*\*\*If the City's Water Resources Laboratory determines that a customer has exceeded the high strength discharge limit for Biochemical Oxygen (BOD), Total Suspended Solids (TSS), or Ammonia, a surcharge will be assessed for each constituent in excess of its relative limit.

**How do I protest?** If you wish to submit a written protest of any of the above increases, your protest must be received by the City Clerk of the City of Santa Barbara at 735 Anacapa Street, Santa Barbara, CA, 93101, prior to the close of the public hearing on June 25, 2024. **Protests must include your name, service address, and whether you are protesting the amount of the fee increase, the basis for calculation of the fee, or both.** Written protests may be mailed to or delivered in-person at the address above, or deposited in the bill payment drop box slot located on the exterior of the City Hall building on the De La Guerra Plaza side. Only written protests received before the close of the public hearing on June 25, 2024, will be counted. During the hearing, City Council will consider all protests and public testimony. Protests are public records. One written protest per parcel or service address will be tabulated. If you later challenge the rates in court, you may be limited to the grounds stated in your protest. If you challenge the City's rate setting action in court, you may be limited to the issues and grounds raised in a written protest or in public testimony at the public hearing. There is a 120-day statute of limitation for challenging any new, increased, or extended fee or charge (California Government Code Section 53759).