

## Why Am I Receiving This Notice?

WCW protects public health and the environment by safely and responsibly collecting, treating, and disposing of wastewater. WCW is proposing a 5-year Sewer Service Charge increase.



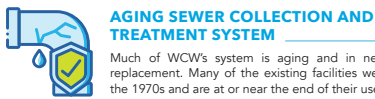
The need for a rate adjustment was evaluated by an independent financial firm that conducted a rate and fee analysis and proposed a 10-year financial plan. WCW is dedicated to operating efficiently and prudently to minimize financial impacts on ratepayers.

A copy of the WCW Sewer Service Charge Rate Study is available online at [www.wc wd.org/rates-fees](http://www.wc wd.org/rates-fees) or by contacting WCW at (510) 222-6700.

The Sewer Service Charge is collected from residential and commercial customers on the property tax bill. Industrial customers are billed on a monthly basis. Customers who may be affected by these changes are receiving this Notice and are invited to provide feedback that the WCW Board of Directors will consider prior to voting on the proposed Sewer Service Charge rates.

## Why Are Changes Necessary?

A recent rate study conducted by an independent financial firm determined that WCW needs to adjust the Sewer Service Charge in order to generate enough revenue to pay for critical capital improvements including lift station upgrades, pipeline replacement, and address deferred maintenance.



### AGING SEWER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT SYSTEM

Much of WCW's system is aging and in need of repair or replacement. Many of the existing facilities were developed in the 1970s and are at or near the end of their useful life.

Many improvements and upgrades have been deferred and need to be addressed immediately. The rate adjustment would allow WCW to catch up with maintenance needed now and plan for future needs. Learn more about necessary improvement and maintenance projects in this Notice or online at [www.wc wd.org/about-us/plans-documents](http://www.wc wd.org/about-us/plans-documents).

## How Will This Affect Me?

If approved, a single-family residential customer would see an increase of \$97 in the first year on their Sewer Service Charge, collected with property taxes. Charges for multi-family and mobile home customers would increase \$89 in the first year.

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### IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING PROPOSED CHANGES TO WASTEWATER RATES

If you would like to receive this Notice in a different language, please contact West County Wastewater at (510) 222-6700.

Información importante – concierne a los cambios propuestos a las tarifas de aguas residuales. Si desea recibir esta información en otro idioma, por favor comuníquese con West County Wastewater al (510) 222-6700.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING PROPOSED CHANGES TO WASTEWATER RATES

Wednesday, June 3, 2026 | 6:30 p.m.

At 2910 Hilltop Dr., Richmond, California 94806, or Via teleconference.  
To participate, visit: [wc wd-org.zoom.us/j/89550501321](http://wc wd-org.zoom.us/j/89550501321) or  
call: 1-669-900-6833 | Meeting ID: 895 5050 1321

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that West County Wastewater District (WCW) is considering a Sewer Service Charge rate increase. You are receiving this Notice because our records indicate that you are an owner of a property or occupant within the WCW service area. This Notice describes the proposed changes and explains how you can participate in the rate setting process. If adopted, the proposed rates would become effective July 1, 2026, and would be adjusted on July 1 of 2027, 2028, 2029 and 2030.



A Public Hearing will be conducted per California Constitution Article XIII D, Section 6 (also known as "Proposition 218"). This Notice is being sent to all owners of record whose parcels receive wastewater service from WCW or who would be subject to the proposed rate changes. The term "Property Owner" and/or "Customer" as used in this Notice includes any affected person or entity that owns a property within the WCW service area and/or who is responsible for payment of wastewater service charges.

At the date, time and location specified above, the WCW Board of Directors will conduct a Public Hearing to consider proposed adjustments to the Sewer Service Charge. The proposed adjustments will be applicable to all parcels that receive service from WCW. All members of the public are invited to attend the hearing at the date and time above. Additionally, all property owners of record and customers of record may submit a written protest to the proposed rate changes, but only one protest will count per parcel toward a majority protest.



Please refer to the "How Can I Participate?" section of this document for instructions on submitting a formal written protest against the proposed action. If you would like to receive this Notice in a different language, please contact West County Wastewater at (510) 222-6700.

More information about the proposed rate changes, including the rate study, is available at [www.wc wd.org/rates-fees/](http://www.wc wd.org/rates-fees/). Staff are also available to answer questions. You can call (510) 222-6700 or email [info@wc wd.org](mailto:info@wc wd.org).



### Did you know?

As a public agency, WCW is not legally allowed to make a profit. According to state law, WCW cannot charge more than the actual cost of providing wastewater service.

## Providing Safe, Reliable Service

### Upgrading and Maintaining the System

The aging wastewater system needs upgrades and repairs to continue operating efficiently, effectively, and safely. West County Wastewater (WCW) has made significant investments in its infrastructure over the last five years. There are additional investments required to upgrade infrastructure that is between 40-50 years old and at the end of its useful life. Planning and making critical upgrades now will reduce costs in the future.

WCW's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to maintain and improve the system includes an expenditure of **\$63 million** over 5 years. Capital projects include upgrades to plant processes, maintenance facilities, the collection system, and lift stations. WCW is completing a large energy savings project that will reduce WCW's energy expenses by approximately **\$2 million per year**.



### Key Projects Requiring Attention



**Clean & Green Project** – The Clean & Green Project is nearing completion and is 100% funded through bonds. Once the project is complete the upgrades at the Water Quality & Resource Recovery Plant (WQRRP) will create a micro-grid with solar power, battery energy storage system and cogeneration, allowing for self-generation of energy for portions of the day. Energy storage will support resiliency and overall efficiency in operations. Other improvements include upgrades to treatment and solids handling processes, that substantially decrease the greenhouse gas emissions of the WQRRP.

**Gravity Sewer Project** – The Gravity Sewer Project includes projects to repair and rehabilitate aging gravity sewer pipelines. These improvements will enhance system reliability and reduce the risk of sanitary sewer overflows and inflow and infiltration.

**Force Main Project** – The Force Main Project focuses on inspection, repair, and replacement of pressurized sewer pipelines. These projects will improve collection system reliability and reduce the risk of failures and sewer spills.

**Lift Station Project** – The Lift Station Project includes electrical, mechanical, and structural upgrades at WCW-maintained lift stations. These improvements will enhance reliability of service and reduce the risk of emergency equipment failures.

**Plant Process Project** – The Plant Process Project includes improvements at WQRRP to rehabilitate sedimentation and aeration basins, and upgrade electrical components at the effluent discharge area. These projects will improve WQRRP reliability and extend the useful life of its components.

**North Richmond Collaborative Shoreline** – WCW is in the design phase for a .67-mile horizontal levee that will protect WCW infrastructure and the North Richmond community from coastal flooding and provide wetland restoration in the area.

## Understanding Your Wastewater Rates

WCW collects most of its rate revenue from residential and commercial customers on the property tax bill. Industrial customers are billed on a monthly basis. WCW's method of billing follows standard industry practice for wastewater utilities.



### RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS (SINGLE-FAMILY, MULTI-FAMILY AND MOBILE HOMES)

Residential customers are billed a flat rate determined on an equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) basis, which reflects the typical volume and strength of the wastewater generated by a single-family home. A single-family residence is 1 EDU. Multifamily and mobile home residences are billed at a slightly lower rate.



### COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS

Commercial customers are billed based on the prior year water consumption. Low water users are charged a minimum bill that is equal to one single-family residential household, or one EDU.



### INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMERS

Industrial customers are billed based on water consumption and measured biological oxygen demand (BOD) and suspended solids (SS) contributed to the Water Quality and Resource Recovery Plant. Low water users are charged a minimum bill that is equal to one single-family residential household, or one EDU.

WCW charges additional service-based fees that are not impacted by this proposal, such as sewer permits, plan approval and connection fees. For more information, go to [wcwd.org/rates-fees](http://wcwd.org/rates-fees).

## Proposed Sewer Service Charges

The rate study proposes five years of rate adjustments beginning July 1, 2026, and on July 1 of 2027, 2028, 2029, and 2030. The proposed rate changes and 10-year financial plan would provide WCW with sufficient revenues to fund the improvement projects required to reverse the impacts of years of deferred maintenance, while maintaining financial stability. The adjustments allow WCW to cover the near-term increase in spending on maintenance and upgrades.

Billing Unit	Current Charge Per Year	Proposed Charge Effective 7/1/26	Proposed Charge Effective 7/1/27	Proposed Charge Effective 7/1/28	Proposed Charge Effective 7/1/29	Proposed Charge Effective 7/1/30
<b>SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL</b>						
Flat Rate	\$815.00	\$912.00	\$1,022.00	\$1,144.00	\$1,282.00	\$1,435.00
<b>MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL</b>						
Flat Rate	\$711.00	\$800.00	\$896.00	\$1,003.00	\$1,124.00	\$1,258.00
<b>MOBILE HOME</b>						
Flat Rate	\$711.00	\$800.00	\$896.00	\$1,003.00	\$1,124.00	\$1,258.00
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>						
Minimum Charge	\$815.00	\$912.00	\$1,022.00	\$1,144.00	\$1,282.00	\$1,435.00
Domestic Strength*	\$8.73	\$9.75	\$10.92	\$12.23	\$13.70	\$15.34
High Strength*	\$14.70	\$15.25	\$17.08	\$19.13	\$21.43	\$24.00
<b>INDUSTRIAL</b>						
Minimum Charge	\$815.00	\$912.00	\$1,022.00	\$1,144.00	\$1,282.00	\$1,435.00
Flow Charge*	\$5.61	\$6.88	\$7.70	\$8.63	\$9.66	\$10.82
BOD Charge**	\$0.58	\$0.70	\$0.79	\$0.88	\$0.99	\$1.10
SS Charge**	\$0.68	\$0.67	\$0.75	\$0.84	\$0.94	\$1.05

\* Flow is billed per thousand gallons. \*\* BOD and SS are billed per pound.

## How Can I Participate?

WCW welcomes your participation as the Board of Directors considers the changes explained in this Notice. If you have questions or comments about the proposed rates you can:

**Call or visit us online** – You can view the WCW Sewer Service Charge Rate Study and other information online at [wcwd.org/rates-fees](http://wcwd.org/rates-fees) or contact WCW at (510) 222-6700 with questions.

**Write** – Property owners and customers who would be affected by the proposed rate changes may (1) file a written protest against the proposed rate adjustments and/or (2) submit a written legal objection stating how the proposed new rates do not comply with existing law. If a majority of the record parcel owners protest the rate in writing, then WCW will not impose the proposed rates. Only one protest per parcel will be counted. To be counted toward a majority protest, any written protest must be received by WCW no later than the end of the Public Hearing on **June 3, 2026**. Emailed or faxed protests will **NOT** be accepted.

A valid written protest or legal objection **must include**: (1) Printed name and signature of the person submitting the written protest; (2) Clear indication that the document is a protest or an objection; (3) Residence or business address or parcel number (APN) within the WCW service area. For more information or to withdraw a protest or an objection, contact (510) 222-6700. A letter of withdrawal may be required.

**To be considered sufficient, a legal objection must include a description of the nature of the legal objection with sufficient specificity to allow WCW to respond in writing. Legal objections must be received by May 23, 2026. Pursuant to Government Code Section 53759.2, failure to submit a sufficient legal objection by May 23, 2026 will bar your right to challenge the proposed rates through a legal proceeding.**

Written protests and legal objections can be mailed to: West County Wastewater, 2910 Hilltop Drive, Richmond, CA 94806.

**Attend the Public Hearing** – Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in person at 2910 Hilltop Dr. Richmond, California 94806 or via teleconference; [wcwd-org.zoom.us/j/89550501321](http://wcwd-org.zoom.us/j/89550501321) or call: 1-669-900-6833, Meeting ID: 895 5050 1321. Members of the public are welcome to attend the Public Hearing and will have an opportunity to speak and give testimony regarding the proposed changes; however, only written protests will count toward a majority protest. Written protests must be received before the conclusion of the Public Hearing.

### Public Hearing Process

At the Public Hearing, WCW will hear and consider all comments to the proposed rate adjustments. Upon conclusion of the hearing, the WCW Board of Directors will evaluate the protests and consider the adoption of the proposed changes to the wastewater rates. Protests submitted by email or other electronic means do not count as formal written protests. Oral comments do not qualify as a formal protest unless accompanied by a written protest. WCW is authorized to adopt the proposed rates if written protests against the proposed changes, as outlined above, do not represent at least a majority of owners of identified parcels impacted by the proposed rates. If adopted as proposed, the rate changes would take effect beginning **July 1, 2026**, and on **July 1 of 2027, 2028, 2029 and 2030**.

*This information will be made available in alternative formats upon request, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, by calling (510) 222-6700. Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations required to facilitate meeting participation, including requests for auxiliary aids, services or interpreters, require different lead times, ranging from five business days to two weeks. Please provide as much advance notice as possible in order to assure availability.*

### Preserving the Right to Challenge Proposed Increased Sewer Service Rates

There is a 120-day statute of limitations for judicial action or proceeding challenging any new, increased, or extended water and sewer fee or charge set forth in this Notice that runs from the date of the Board action to approve the rates, or the effective date of the rates, whichever is later. (Government Code Section 53759.)