



**Sonoma  
Water**

SPRING 2026 NEWS

Vol. 14, Issue #1

# South Park County Sanitation District

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## About Your District

The South Park County Sanitation District is moving ahead with several important projects to keep our wastewater system reliable, safe, and ready for the future.

These upgrades focus on replacing older pipes, coordinating construction with partner agencies and planning for long-term community needs.

The system serves about 4,500 homes and businesses across 1,460 acres. All wastewater collected in the district is sent to the Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant, where it is treated and largely reused for irrigation and power generation.

### Santa Rosa Avenue Collection System Replacement

The district completed early design work and a detailed survey for this major pipe replacement project. Staff are coordinating with the City of Santa Rosa and ongoing planning efforts for the South Santa Rosa Specific Plan, which may affect the size of future pipes. Final design and environmental review are expected in FY 2026/27, with construction—estimated at \$7.1 million—planned for fiscal year 2027/2028.

### Barbara & Eddy Drive and Robin Way Collection System Replacement

To reduce construction impacts on neighbors, the district is partnering with the City of Santa Rosa on a project that replaces sewer and installs new water lines at the same time. About 1,200 feet of sewer pipe will be replaced. Sewer design is nearly finished, and work is expected to start in fiscal year 2026/2027. Estimated sewer construction cost: \$847,000.

### Winston Drive, Neville Way and Moorland Avenue Collection System Replacement

This project will replace about 1,800 feet of old sewer pipe that has reached the end of its useful life. The new pipe will be modern PVC, which is more durable and reliable. Surveys and environmental studies are complete, and staff are now working on design and securing needed construction-period access. Construction is planned for fiscal year 2026/2027. Estimated construction cost: \$3.3 million.

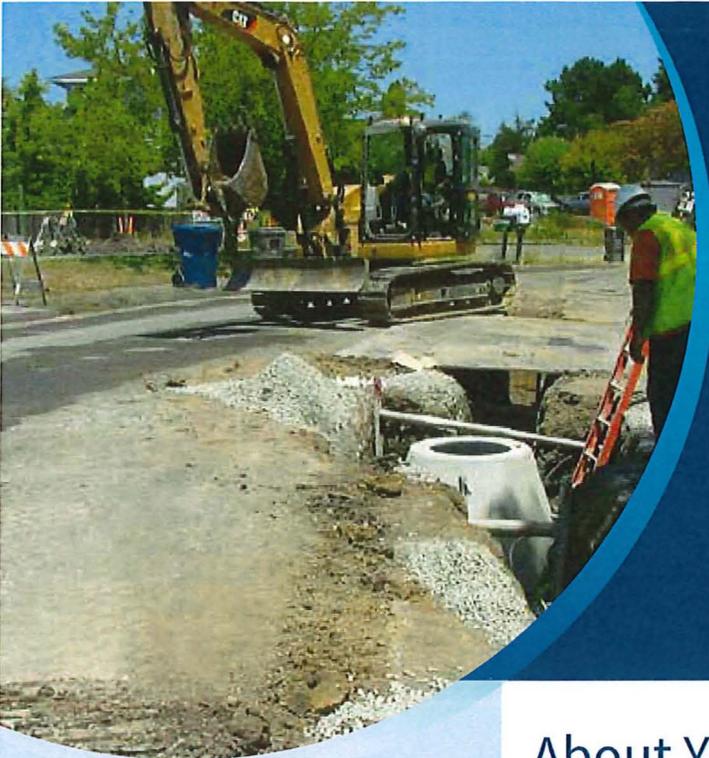
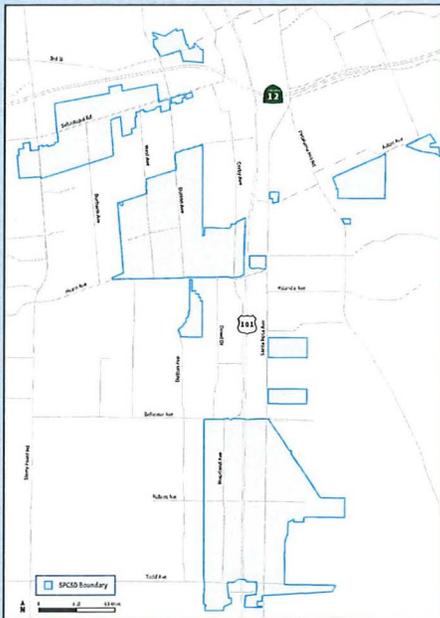
### McMinn–Hughes Collection System Replacement

The district is working with the City of Santa Rosa to replace 1,100 feet of sewer main along McMinn and Hughes avenues. By coordinating with the city, the project will reduce disruptions and avoid having multiple contractors working in the same area. Estimated construction cost: \$1.4 million.

In 1995, Sonoma Water assumed responsibility from the County of Sonoma for managing the county sanitation zones and districts, including your district.

The collection system serves approximately 4,499 Equivalent Single-Family Dwellings within a 1,460-acre service area.

Wastewater collected by the district is treated at the Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant. Most of the treated water is reused for power generation and irrigation.



## Sanitation Rate Relief Program

*Save money on your annual sewer service bill*

The Sanitation Rate Relief Program provides a discount on sewer service bills for low-income property owners within the districts and zones managed by Sonoma Water.

The discounts can reduce the annual sewage charge on your property tax bill by up to 50%. Nonprofit organizations that provide housing for low-income renters within the district or zone are eligible to participate in the program.

Sonoma Water will begin accepting applications from April 16 to July 10.

Customers must apply every year for the Sanitation Rate Relief Program.

Participants in the PG&E CARE Program must submit a copy of their most recent PG&E bill as proof of participation in the CARE Program. Eligible customers should sign up for the PG&E CARE Program as soon as possible to facilitate qualification for the Sanitation Rate Relief Program.

Learn more and apply at [SonomaWater.org/SRRP](http://SonomaWater.org/SRRP).



### SANITATION RATE RELIEF PROGRAM

Low-income homeowners and non-profit organizations that provide housing to low-income renters may apply for a discount on sewer service charges on property tax bills.

Learn more and apply:  
[sonomawater.org/srrp](http://sonomawater.org/srrp)  
(707) 521-1885

## Water Rebates in Your District

*Water-Saving rebate programs available*

If you are a City of Santa Rosa Water customer, you have some water saving tools at your fingertips! Please take advantage of the following water saving programs which are offered on a first-come, first-served basis while funding is available.

Receive Rebates For

High-Efficiency Toilets, High-Efficiency Clothes Washers, Cash for Grass Program, Irrigation Upgrades, Graywater Reuse, Rainwater Harvesting, Sustained Water Reduction, and much more.

For more information

Visit: <https://www.srcity.org/834/Rebates-Services> E-mail: [wue@srcity.org](mailto:wue@srcity.org) Call: 707-543-3985



**Grease in  
the Bin,**



**we all WIN!**



**Don't clog  
the sink!**



## Fats, Oils, and Grease (F.O.G.s) Cause Clogs

*Prevent clogs and protect your plumbing!*

Wipe before washing: For plates and pans with residual grease or oil, use a paper towel to wipe them clean before washing. Place the greasy paper towels, napkins, and food scraps in the compost bin.

Dispose of larger amounts responsibly: If you have more than a little oil (but less than 2 cups), let it cool, then carefully discard it in your garbage.

For More information, please visit:  
[SonomaWater.org/PollutionPrevention](http://SonomaWater.org/PollutionPrevention).

## Maintaining and Repairing Aging Infrastructure

Since 1995, Sonoma Water has been dedicated to managing eight vital wastewater districts and zones across Sonoma County. Many of the systems have served the community for decades, ranging from 43 years in areas like Russian River to over 70 years in Sonoma Valley and Occidental. The challenge of aging systems as our collection and treatment infrastructure ages, the need for continuous maintenance and periodic replacement becomes more critical. At the same time, we must navigate increasingly strict water quality regulations, which continue to drive up both operational and capital compliance costs. Because many of the districts are small, these rising expenses are shared among a limited number of ratepayers, intensifying the financial impact on each customer.

Balancing needs and affordability while proposed rate increases for the districts are higher than in the recent past, these adjustments are essential. They allow us to:

- Maintain and replace critical aging infrastructure.
- Address deferred maintenance to prevent more costly repairs in the future.
- Protect public health and the environment through responsible system management.

Sonoma Water is sensitive to the financial strain these increases may cause. To help offset capital project costs and reduce the burden on ratepayers, we are actively pursuing grants and loans. In the sections below, you will find specific details regarding the proposed rate increase for your district or zone. We have also included a clear breakdown of how funds are collected and allocated, along with a list of planned infrastructure projects for the upcoming year.

	FY25-26	FY26-27 Proposed
ESDs	4,499	4,521
Annual Rate per ESD	\$1,232	\$1,274
Annual Increase	\$42	\$42
Monthly Rate per ESD	\$102.67	\$106.17
Monthly Increase	\$3.50	\$3.50
Rate Increase	3.5%	3.5%
Increased Revenue	\$188,958	\$189,882

\*Fixed Rate sewer bills are calculated based on usage of an Equivalent Standard Dwelling (“ESD”). An ESD is defined as what an average single family home would use in a given year.

## Budget Approval

The draft proposed budgets for all sanitation districts and zones are available for review now at Sonoma Water’s office located at 404 Aviation Boulevard, Santa Rosa, California 95403, and on Sonoma Water’s website at [SonomaWater.org/Current-Budget](https://www.SonomaWater.org/Current-Budget).

In addition, owners of the properties in districts and zones receive notice of the proposed rates in this newsletter. The public can protest rate increases up to the date of the rate hearings, which this year are scheduled for May 12, 2026 at the Board of Supervisors chambers. (A protest form and rate hearing information are available on pages 5-7 of this notice).

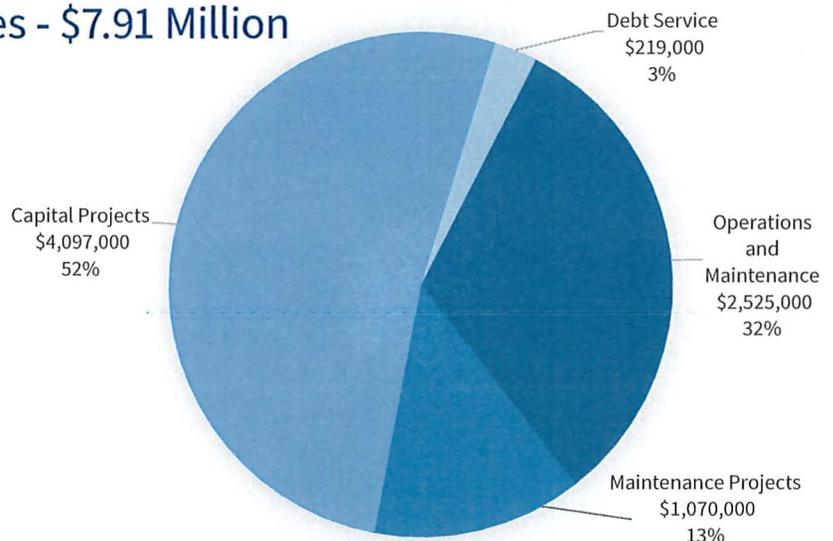
## FY26-27 Budgeted Expenditures - \$7.91 Million

### Capital Projects – \$4.10 Million

- Barbara-Winston Collection System Replacement Project
- McMinn & Hughes Sewer Funding Agreement
- Robin Way, Eddy Drive & Barbara Drive Sewer Replacements
- Santa Rosa Avenue Sewer Improvements

### Maintenance Projects – \$1.07 Million

- Pavement Preservation - Sonoma Public Infrastructure
- Rate Study for Transfer to City of Santa Rosa
- Sanitation Planning



# PROPOSITION 218

## South Park County Sanitation District

### Notice of Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Sewer Service Rate Increase

#### Date, Time, and Place of Public Hearing

On May 12, 2026 at 10:05 a.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the Board of Directors (Board) of the South Park County Sanitation District (District) will conduct a public hearing to consider increasing the annual sewer service charge (Sewer Charge) and make rate structure modifications. If approved, the increased Sewer Charge will become effective on July 1, 2026.

The public hearing will be held in the Board Meeting Room, 575 Administration Drive, Room 102A, Santa Rosa, California. The Board is currently not having virtual meetings with virtual participation from the public. If a virtual meeting is required by unforeseen emergency circumstances, or if virtual participation will be implemented, information regarding virtual participation will be available on the Board's agenda 72 hours prior to the meeting at <https://sonoma-county.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

The Sewer Charge will be imposed on each parcel with one or more structures that are connected to the system. The Sewer Charge will be collected on the general property tax bill administered by Sonoma County. Payment of the Sewer Charge will be the responsibility of the owner of the parcel.

#### Reasons for the Sewer Charge and Use of the Funds Collected

The Sewer Charge is imposed to pay for the cost of providing safe and reliable sewer service to your property in conformance with legal requirements, and is necessary: (a) to finance the ongoing operation and maintenance costs of the system; (b) to pay the capital replacement program costs of the system, which provides for the long-term replacement of system facilities as they wear out; and (c) to maintain sufficient reserves.

#### Calculation of the Sewer Rate Increase

The District is working with the City of Santa Rosa on a multi-year transition process to turn over the operation and management of the District to the City. The District's rate structure historically included only fixed charges. The District has moved to a new rate structure that includes both (A) fixed charges; and (B) volumetric charges that are based on the amount of water used by the customer. This rate structure is designed to fund the cost of District services and it also provides customers greater control over their sewer bill. It is also consistent with industry best practices and is similar to the City's rate structure.

#### **A. Fixed Charge Calculation**

The fixed charge is calculated based on usage of a standard "equivalent single-family dwelling" (ESD). A standard single-family home constitutes one ESD which is defined as what an average single family home would use in a given year. Properties that are not single family homes are converted to ESDs based on industry standard methods and more information about this conversion is available from the District. The fixed charge funds 40 percent of the District's costs to provide sewer services, including costs associated with the sewage treatment and collection system that are incurred regardless of increased or decreased sewage flow into the system.

Effective July 1, 2026, the District proposes a fixed charge of \$487.26 per ESD per year. This represents an annual increase of \$16.48 or \$1.37 per month. All District customers will pay the fixed charge. The proposed fixed charge component of the Sewer Charge will be calculated as follows:

$$\text{\$487.26 per ESD} \times \text{Number of ESD's} = \text{Fixed Charge Component of the Sewer Charge}$$

The number of ESDs for your parcel is included in this newsletter in the box to the left of your mailing address.

#### **B. Volumetric Charge Calculation**

The volume-based charge recovers 60 percent of the District's costs to provide sewer services, including the costs associated with the sewage treatment and collection system that vary with the amount of sewage conveyed and treated. The District will use City of Santa Rosa water usage data to calculate the annual volumetric charge portion of the Sewer Charge. All District customers will pay an annual volumetric charge.

**The Volume-Based Component of the Sewer Charge has two parts, which are multiplied together:  
Annual Water Usage x Charge per thousand gallons = Volume-Based Component of Sewer Charge**

The District has four categories of customers for the volumetric charge calculation:

1. Residential Customers with a City of Santa Rosa Water Connection
2. Residential Customers with No City of Santa Rosa Water Connection
3. Non-Residential Customers with a City of Santa Rosa Water Connection
4. Non-Residential Customers with No City of Santa Rosa Water Connection

Residential customers include single-family dwellings, duplexes, and condominium complexes. Non-residential customers include multiple-family units, apartments, mobile home parks, commercial, industrial, and institutional properties. The calculations for each are described below. Annual Water Usage calculations will be based on customer water consumption. For Residential Customers, average winter water usage will be used because it provides the best available estimate of indoor water usage since outdoor irrigation is minimal during the winter months. For Non-Residential Customers, annual water usage is based on actual water usage.

**Table 1: Residential Customers: Annual Water Usage and Charge Per Thousand Gallon Calculation**

<b>Sewer Customers</b>	<b>Calculation of Annual Water Usage</b>	<b>Charge Per Thousand Gallons</b>
With a City of Santa Rosa Water Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District will calculate Customer’s average monthly winter water usage.</li> <li>• Average winter water usage will be multiplied by 12 to determine annual water usage.</li> </ul>	\$14.23
With No City of Santa Rosa Water Connection part or all of the time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District will calculate Customer’s average monthly winter water usage of similar residential customers that have a City of Santa Rosa water connection.</li> <li>• Water use will be estimated based on household size and water use data from comparable metered customers.</li> <li>• Average winter water usage will be multiplied by 12 to determine annual water usage.</li> </ul>	\$14.23

**Table 2a: Non-Residential Customers: Annual Water Usage Calculation**

<b>Sewer Customers</b>	<b>Calculation of Annual Water Usage</b>	<b>Charge Per Thousand Gallons</b>
With a City of Santa Rosa Water Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District will add up the customer’s actual monthly water usage for 12 months to arrive at the total annual water usage.</li> </ul>	Based on estimated wastewater strength, shown in Table 2b below
With No City of Santa Rosa Water Connection part or all of the time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District will average annual water usage from similar customers based on City of Santa Rosa water usage data.</li> <li>• Water use will be estimated based on household size, if applicable, or on the type and size of use. Additional information on estimation methodologies is available from the District.</li> <li>• Average winter water usage will be multiplied by 12 to determine annual water usage.</li> </ul>	Based on estimated wastewater strength, shown in Table 2b below

**Table 2b: Non-Residential Customers: Examples of Charge Per Thousand Gallon Calculation**

<b>Categories of Wastewater Strength and Examples of Types of Uses</b>	<b>Charge per Thousand Gallons</b>
<b>Low Strength</b> - car wash, glass products	\$12.23
<b>Standard Strength</b> – residential, condominium complexes, multi-family complexes, mobile home parks, warehouses, general commercial/industrial including retail, schools, churches, auto sales, dental and medical offices.	\$14.23
<b>Medium Strength</b> – mixed use commercial; hotel/motel, convenience store, bar, winery, brewery, auto repair.	\$16.33
<b>High Strength</b> – bakery, restaurant, coffee shop, meat and food processing, miller, hospital, veterinary clinic.	\$20.20

### C. Fixed Charge and Volumetric Charge Calculation Combined for Total Sewer Charge

Each Residential Customer with a sewer connection will be charged an annual Sewer Charge calculated as follows:

\$487.26 per ESD X Number of ESDs (Fixed Charge Component) +

\$14.23 per thousand gallons x Annual Water Usage in thousand gallons (Volumetric Charge Component)

Each Non-Residential Customer with a sewer connection will be charged an annual Sewer Charge calculated as follows:

\$487.26 per ESD X Number of ESDs (Fixed Charge Component) + Annual Water Usage x Applicable Charge per thousand gallons shown in Table 2b (Volumetric Charge Component)

The draft proposed budget for fiscal year 2026-27 describes the total annual expenses in detail and is available for review at the South Park County Sanitation District, c/o the Sonoma County Water Agency, 404 Aviation Boulevard, Santa Rosa, California 95403, and on Sonoma Water's website at <https://www.sonomawater.org/current-budget>. Also available at this location is the 2026 Written Basis of Sewer Service Charge.

### Further Information Available Prior to the Hearing

At the hearing, the Board will consider adoption of an ordinance that will establish the increased Sewer Charge. A copy of the ordinance will be on file and available for review at the Sonoma County Water Agency, 404 Aviation Boulevard, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. In addition, please contact Sonoma Water at (707) 521-6215 for further information and/or to obtain copies of the draft proposed budget for fiscal year 2026-27, and the written basis for the sewer rates.

### Protest Procedure

This notice has been mailed to you because records of the Sonoma County Assessor list you as an owner of one or more parcels within the District that will be subject to the Sewer Charge while connected to the system. In the event you have sold property you may have owned within the District, please send this notice to the new owner. This document can be found in the spring newsletter online at: <https://www.sonomawater.org/spcsd>.

Prior to the public hearing, property owners, or tenants who are directly liable for the payment of the Sewer Charges, may submit written protests respecting the Sewer Charge. At the public hearing, the Board will consider all written protests that have been received by the prescribed deadline. In order to be considered, a written protest must be made on the attached form. Only one protest will be counted per parcel. Only protests signed by the current owner(s), or tenant(s) directly liable for paying the Sewer Charge, will be allowed and the protest must be received no later than the following deadlines:

- If submitted by mail, the protest must be received (NOT postmarked) no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2026 at the mailing address on the form.
- If hand delivered, the protest must be delivered no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2026 at the mailing address on the form.

Sonoma Water  
404 Aviation Blvd.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

### Procedure for Legal Objections

In addition to a protest, you may submit a substantive objection stating grounds why the fee is not in compliance with applicable law. All such objections must be received (not postmarked) at the address above by April 21, 2026. A failure to object in writing by this deadline bars any right to challenge the fee in a legal proceeding.

There is a 120-day statute of limitations for challenging any new, increased, or extended fee or charge.

**Date of this Notice: March 6, 2026**

# RATE PROTEST FORM

NOTE: IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED, ANY PROTEST OR OBJECTION MUST USE THIS FORM

## WRITTEN PROTEST

I am the parcel owner of the property located at the address on the back of this form, or a tenant that is directly liable for paying the Sewer Charge for the property. I am submitting this form to protest the proposed Sewer Charge increase.

If, in addition to your protest, you have a substantive objection, attach it to this form and use the heading **Objection**.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Property Owner Required

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

*Fold Here First*

Place  
Postage  
Here

South Park County Sanitation District  
c/o Sonoma Water  
404 Aviation Blvd.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

*Fold Here Second*

South Park County Sanitation District  
c/o Sonoma Water  
404 Aviation Blvd.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403



## IMPORTANT Sewer Service Fee Notice

(Prop. 218) enclosed for  
South Park County  
Sanitation District

### HEARING DATE

May 12, 2026 at 10:05 a.m.

### HEARING DETAILS

Hearing details can be found  
72 hours prior to the meeting at  
<https://sonoma-county.legistar.com/calendar.aspx>



## Included In This Issue

Proposition 218 Notice for proposed  
Fiscal Year 2026-2027 sewer rates.

The Notice with information about the proposed rates  
is included on pages 5-6 of this newsletter.  
The return protest form is located on page 7.



## Importante

Aviso De Tarifa De Servicio De Aguas Negras  
Aviso de la Proposición 218 respecto a las tarifas  
propuestas para el año fiscal 2026-2027.

### FECHA DE LA AUDIENCIA

12 de mayo de 2026 a las 10:05 a.m.

### DETALLES DE LA AUDIENCIA

Los detalles de la audiencia estarán disponibles 72 horas  
antes de la reunión en

<https://sonoma-county.legistar.com/calendar.aspx>

## Incluido en esta Edición

El aviso con información sobre las tarifas propuestas se  
incluye en las páginas 5-6 de este boletín. El formulario de  
protesta se encuentra en la página 7.

Este boletín y otros materiales sobre saneamiento de  
aguas negras están disponibles en español en

[SonomaWater.org/espanol](https://SonomaWater.org/espanol).



**Sonoma  
Water**

Clean. Reliable. Essential. Every Day.  
[SonomaWater.org/SPCSD](https://SonomaWater.org/SPCSD)