



INSIDE

- 2 How Your Sewer Service Fees are Spent
- 3 Tours & Rebates
- 4 Wastewater Woman Joins the Fight against Grease, Wipes, and Unwanted Meds
- 5 All About Prop. 218
- 7 Rate Protest Form



OCCIDENTAL COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT



OCCIDENTAL WASTEWATER TRUCKING PROJECT COMPLETE

It has taken many years to establish a feasible solution to Occidental’s wastewater woes. Recently, a project has been completed to truck the community’s untreated wastewater to the Airport/Larkfield/Wikiup (Airport) treatment plant. While admittedly not the ideal solution, the project allows the Occidental County Sanitation District (District) to comply with its regulatory requirement to end discharges into Dutch Bill Creek. A series of potential alternatives presented over the course of two decades failed to gain community support or provide a viable economic option.

Treatment of the District’s wastewater ended last year and since then, trucks have been hauling the wastewater to the Airport treatment plant near the Sonoma County Airport, about 18 miles

away. The \$1.29 million project included the decommissioning of the treatment plant facilities in Occidental, construction of a truck fill/transfer station located at the District’s lift station and improvements at the Airport treatment plant to accept additional wastewater.

The trucking program will likely continue to evolve and improve. Sonoma Water, which manages and operates the District, is in discussions with the Graton Community Services District about accepting and treating Occidental’s wastewater. Graton officials are currently exploring feasible sites for a truck fill location that will meet the needs of their facility and the community.

HOW YOUR SEWER SERVICE FEES ARE SPENT

Service fees collected from property owners are used to operate and maintain the sanitation facilities that are managed by Sonoma Water. This graphic depiction provides a snapshot of types of activities that are required to operate our facilities in an environmentally responsible and fiscally prudent manner, to replace worn out equipment before it fails.



COLLECTION SYSTEM
5¢

TREATMENT & DISPOSAL
70¢



HOW YOUR SEWER SERVICE FEE DOLLAR IS SPENT

ONE DOLLAR



ADMINISTRATION
15¢

MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE
10¢



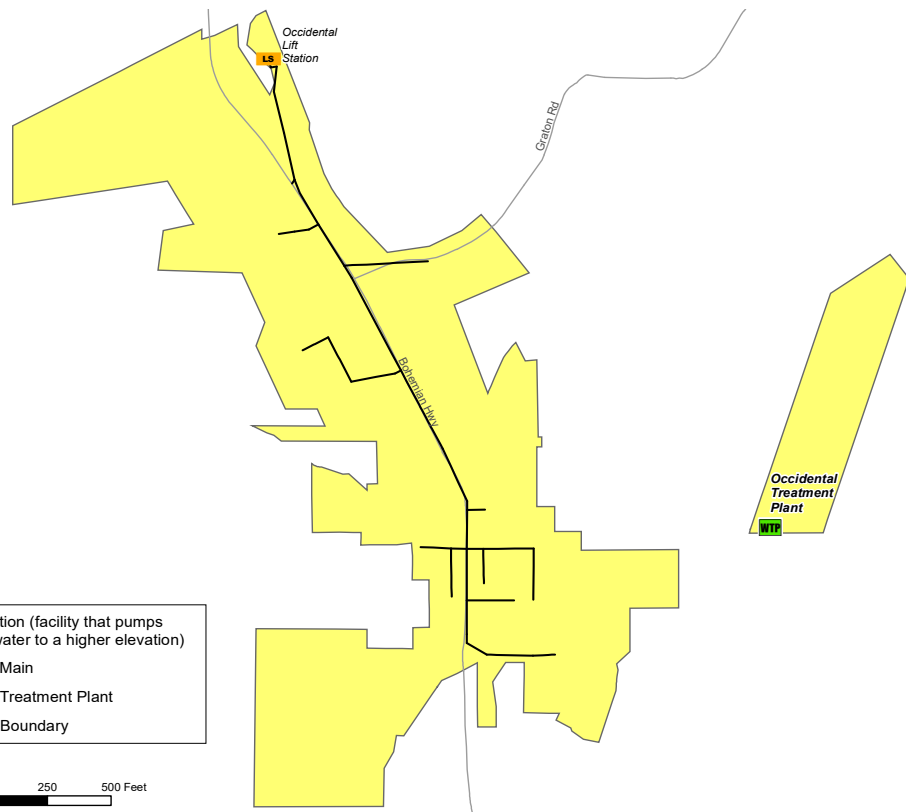
BUDGET APPROVAL

After the proposed budgets and rates are developed, the budgets are available for public review at libraries throughout the county and at Sonoma Water's office located at 404 Aviation Boulevard, Santa Rosa. They are also available online. Typically, this happens at the end of March. In addition, notices of the proposed rates are mailed to the owners of the properties in the districts and zones at that time. The public can protest rate increases up to the date of the rate hearings, which are typically held in mid-May at the Board of Supervisors chambers. (A protest form and rate hearing information are available on pages 6-7 of this notice).

ABOUT YOUR DISTRICT

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

The District began operations in 1950. Currently, it serves 272 Equivalent Single-Family Dwellings within a 55-acre service area. The sanitation facility trucks all wastewater to the Airport/Larkfield/Wikiup Treatment Plant for treatment and disposal.





SPRING 2019 PUBLIC TOURS

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT TOURS

Sonoma Water will host free public tours of the Russian River (in Guerneville) and Sonoma Valley Wastewater Treatment Plants. Come learn where wastewater goes after it leaves your home and how it is treated, recycled and reused as a new resource.

Sonoma Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour

Saturday, May 11, 2019– 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (ENGLISH)

Russian River Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour

Saturday, May 18, 2019– 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (ENGLISH)

Tour registration is required. To learn more and to register, please visit www.sonomawater.org/tours. Registration will be confirmed via email. Children must be 12 years old to attend a tour and must be accompanied by an adult.

Russian River water supply walking tours, as well as tours of flood protection facilities will be announced on the website, check www.sonomawater.org/tours for dates and sign-up.

Questions? Please contact Emma Sharpe at (707) 521-6200 or emma.sharpe@scwa.ca.gov.

WATER REBATES IN YOUR DISTRICT

SANITATION DISTRICT WATER SAVING REBATE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

As a sanitation 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 lasts:

Clothes Washers: Receive up to \$125 back on the purchase and installation of a new, qualifying high-efficiency clothes washer (HEW). Rebates are available for all Energy Star Most Efficient listed clothes washers except those containing silver ion technology.

Toilet rebates: Get up to \$150 back on the purchase and installation of each new, qualifying high-efficiency toilet (HET) from the List of Qualifying Models. Download rebate application forms and learn more at www.sonomawater.org/rebates or call (707) 547-1918.

HIGH-EFFICIENCY FIXTURE DIRECT INSTALL PROGRAM

A limited number of high-efficiency fixture retrofits, including toilet, urinal, faucet aerator and shower head replacements, are offered at no cost to eligible properties. For more information and to register, go to www.sonomawater.org/direct-install. The program ends June 30, 2019. Registration closes May 31, 2019.

“Wastewater Woman” Joins the Fight Against Grease, Wipes and Unwanted Meds

Something as simple as flushing the toilet can cause big problems. Staff at the wastewater treatment plants managed by Sonoma Water face a continuous battle against fats, oil and grease, so-called flushable wipes, and unwanted medications – all things that should never be flushed down the toilet or washed down the drain. When these items are improperly disposed of, they cause sewer backups, damage equipment, and pollute our water.

Who better to come to their aid than a cartoon super-hero armed with a hard hat, cape and compelling message? Enter, Wastewater Woman, whose mission is “fighting the good fight for proper disposal.” Wastewater Woman’s image will be featured in a series of social media and newspaper ads with three main messages:

Grease Down the Drain? What a Pain!

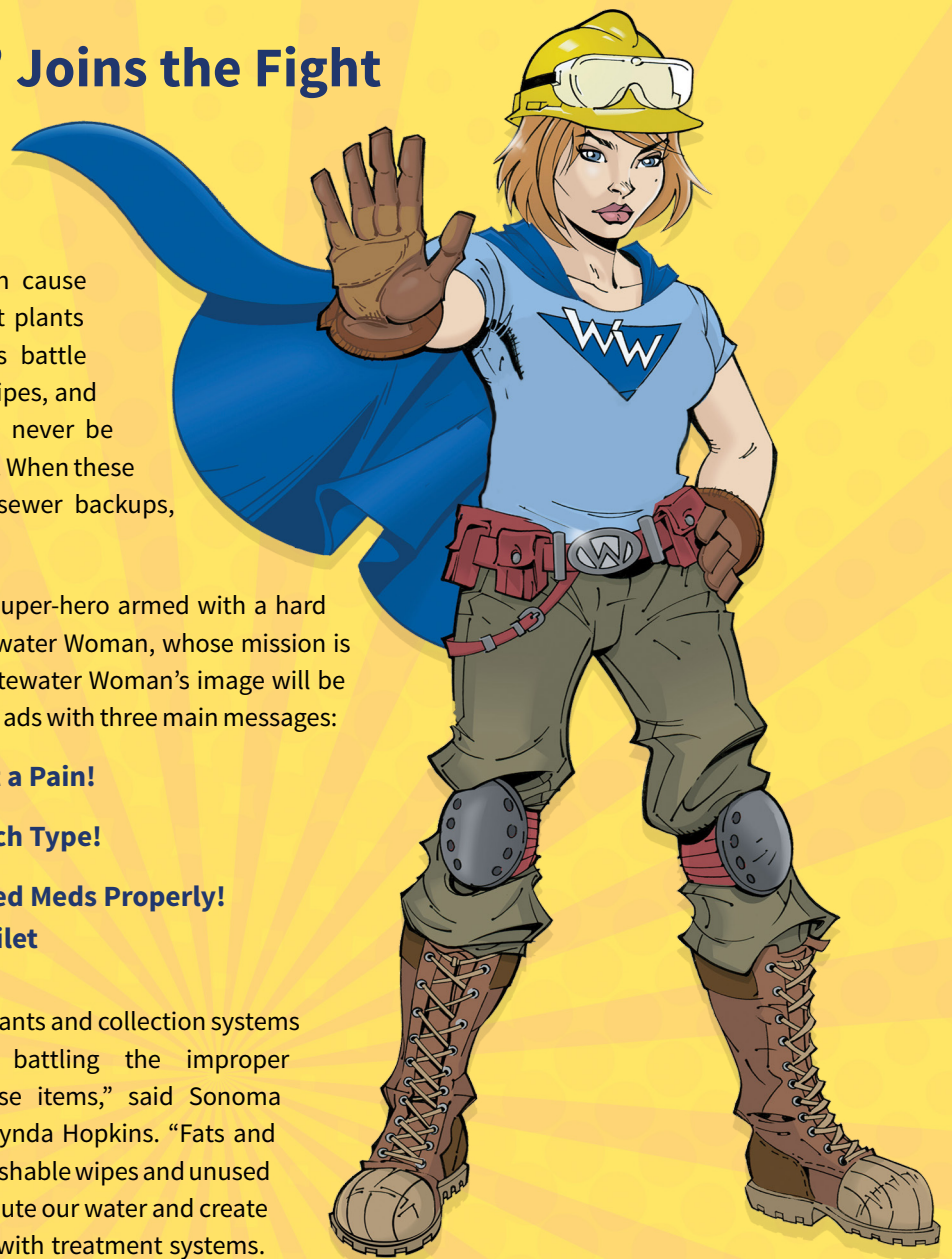
Flushable Wipe? No Such Type!

**Dispose of Unwanted Meds Properly!
Not Down the Toilet**

“Our treatment plants and collection systems are constantly battling the improper disposal of these items,” said Sonoma Water Director Lynda Hopkins. “Fats and oils, so-called flushable wipes and unused medications pollute our water and create costly problems with treatment systems. We should all pay attention to Wastewater Woman’s messages.”

“We hope that by highlighting a serious problem in a playful way we can convey a message that connects with a larger audience,” Sonoma Water Director Susan Gorin. “Wastewater treatment is not the most glamorous of services, but it is essential and critical to the health of our communities. We all need to pitch in to keep the systems working efficiently.”

We thank you for your help!



PROPOSITION 218

Occidental County Sanitation District

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED SEWER SERVICE FEE INCREASE

Date, Time, and Place of Public Hearing

On May 21, 2019 at 1:50 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Board Meeting Room, 575 Administration Drive, Room 102A, Santa Rosa, California, the Board of Directors (Board) of the Occidental County Sanitation District (District) will conduct a public hearing to consider increasing the annual sewer service charge (Sewer Charge) to be collected on account of sewage collection and treatment services provided by the sewer system of the District to property within the District.

If approved, the increased Sewer Charge and rate structure modifications will become effective on July 1, 2019.

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 Fee 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.

Sewer Fee Increase

Effective July 1, 2019, the District proposes to increase the Sewer Charge to \$2,387 per year per “equivalent single-family dwelling” (ESD), an increase of \$112, or 4.9% compared to the current year. A standard single-family home constitutes one ESD. Parcels with other uses (for example, apartments and commercial buildings) will be assigned a number of ESDs using standard equivalency factors that estimate the probable quantity and quality of sewage effluent normally generated by such uses in comparison to a single-family home. Additional information on this standard methodology is available from the District.

The increased Sewer Charge has been calculated by dividing the annual costs of providing wastewater treatment and collection service by the estimated number of ESDs, which results in a Sewer Charge of \$2,387 per ESD.

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

$$\text{\$2,387 per ESD} \times \text{Number of ESDs}$$

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

The draft proposed budget for fiscal year 2019-20 describes the total annual expenses in detail and is available for review at the Occidental County Sanitation District, c/o Sonoma Water, 404 Aviation Boulevard, Santa Rosa, California 95403, and the Sonoma County Regional Libraries in Santa Rosa (Main & Northwest), Windsor, Healdsburg, Cloverdale, Guerneville, Sebastopol, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Rincon Valley, Sonoma, and Forestville (El Molino High School).

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 is on file and available for review at Sonoma Water, 404 Aviation Boulevard, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. In addition, the following persons may be contacted at the Agency at (707) 526-5370 for further information and/or to obtain a copy of the budget for fiscal year 2019-20:

Kathy Badger, Administrative Aide

Lynne Rosselli, Administrative Services Officer II

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.

Either prior to or at 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 must be received no later than the following deadlines:

- If submitted by mail, they must be received (NOT postmarked) no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 20, 2019, at the mailing address on the form.
- If hand delivered, they must be delivered no later than the close of the public hearing on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, to:
Clerk of the Board
Board Meeting Room, as set forth in the opening paragraph

Date of this Notice: March 29, 2019

RATE PROTEST FORM

NOTE: IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED, ANY PROTEST MUST BE ON 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 service fee for the property. I am submitting this form to protest the proposed sewer rate increase.

Additional Comments: _____

Use opposite side or attach additional sheets if needed.

Signature of Property Owner Required

Print Name

Fold Here First

Place
Postage
Here

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

Fold Here Second

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

IMPORTANT Sewer service fee NOTICE

(Prop 218) enclosed for
Occidental County
Sanitation District



HEARING DATE

May 21, 2019, 1:50 p.m.

HEARING LOCATION

575 Administration Drive
Room 102A, Santa Rosa, CA

ATTENTION IMPORTANT SEWER RATE INFORMATION INSIDE



INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

Proposition 218 Notice for proposed
Fiscal Year 2019-2020 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.



**Sonoma
Water**

Clean. Reliable. Essential. Every day.

www.sonomawater.org/OCSD