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OCCIDENTAL COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT



FINAL PHASE OF TREATMENT PLANT CLOSURE COMPLETED

The ongoing efforts to find a long-term solution to the treatment of Occidental’s wastewater continue to make progress. In order to meet its regulatory requirements and end discharges into Dutch Bill Creek, the Occidental County Sanitation District (OCSD) undertook a project in 2018 to construct facilities to transfer and deliver its wastewater offsite.

Last year a facility was built at the Airport/Larkfield/Wikiup (Airport) treatment plant to accept Occidental’s untreated wastewater. Trucks now haul OCSD wastewater to the Airport treatment plant near the Sonoma County Airport, about 18

miles away. District officials also entered into discussions with the Graton Community Services District about accepting and treating Occidental’s wastewater. Graton officials continue to explore feasible sites for a truck fill location that will meet the needs of their facility and the community.

The final portion of the \$1.29 million project was the construction of a truck fill/transfer station located at the District’s lift station. In 2020, the OCSD will update a control panel and install a telemetry system to monitor system operations remotely.

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

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).



ADMINISTRATION
15¢

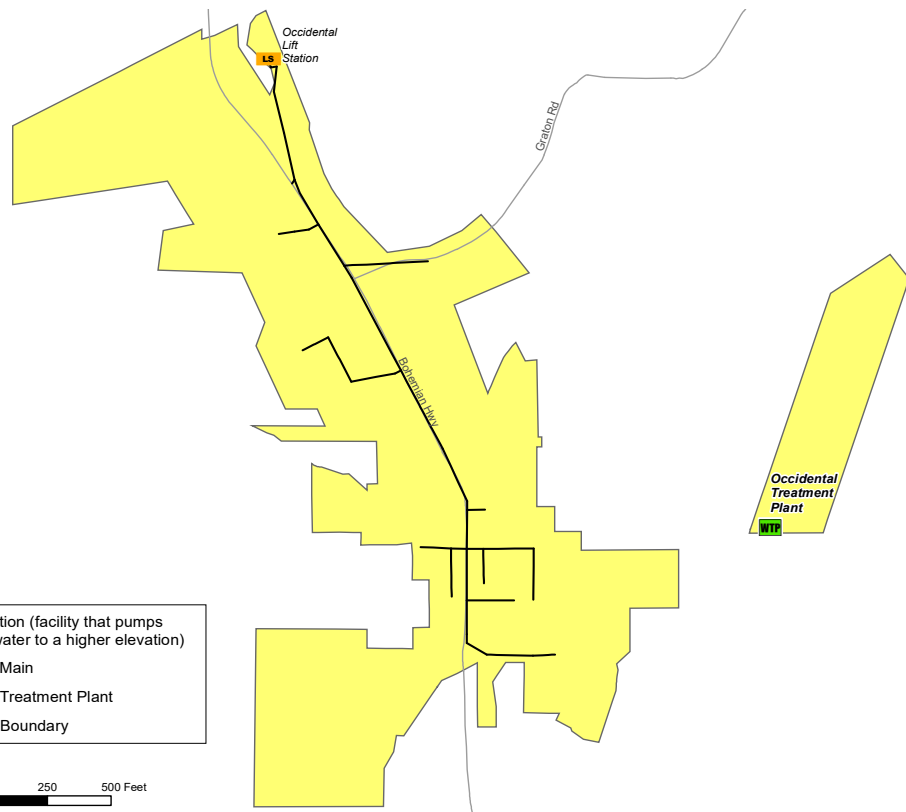
MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE
10¢



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 2020 PUBLIC TOUR

Sonoma Water is pleased to invite community members to sign up for a free public tour and visit our water distribution system, sanitation districts and flood control systems. The following tour is available in English and Spanish.

El siguiente tour está disponible en inglés y español.

Russian River Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour Saturday, May 30, 2020 • 10:00 AM - 11:45 PM

Register online at www.sonomawater.org/tours

Tour will be led in English, with the opportunity to sign up for translation services in Spanish.

Tour the Russian River Wastewater Treatment Plant, including the lab monitoring millions of live protozoa and microorganisms essential for cleaning and recycling wastewater.

Registration is required: The tour has a capacity of 25 guests, and spots are first-come, first-served.

Children and Minors: Must be at least 9 years old and accompanied by an adult to participate in tour.

We will be outside for most of the tour. Please, bring water, sunscreen, and a hat/cap, dress in layers and wear comfortable shoes.

Heavy Rain will cancel the event.

[Sign up for Sonoma Water's E-News](#) to receive notifications of upcoming tours. If you have any questions, please contact Juan-Carlos Solis at Juan-Carlos.Solis@scwa.ca.gov or (707) 547-1922.

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.

A Reminder from WasteWater Woman:

Single-use wet wipes have gained popularity in recent years. Many of these products are marketed as flushable, but often times are not compatible with sewer systems and infrastructure. Other products are not intended to be flushed but end up being improperly disposed of in the toilet. Flushing these products presents an increasing problem for property owners, sewer systems, and ratepayers, since wipes often do not break down after being flushed. Wipes can catch on tree roots and accumulate with fats, oils and grease and become large obstructions in the pipes. Further down the line, they weave together and create giant rags which get stuck in pumps, collection systems, and motors, causing backups and equipment failures. This problem is experienced across the state, country, and worldwide as disposable wet wipe products become more widely available.

**WIPES
CLOG
PIPES!**



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 19, 2020 at 8:30 a.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, 2020.

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, 2020, the District proposes to increase the Sewer Charge to \$2,504 per year per “equivalent single-family dwelling” (ESD), an increase of \$117, 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 \$2,504 per ESD. Each customer with a sewer connection will be charged an annual Sewer Charge calculated as follows:

$$\text{\$2,504 per ESD} \times \text{Number of ESDs}$$

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 2020-21 describes the total annual expenses in detail and is available for review at the Occidental County Sanitation District, c/o the Sonoma County Water Agency, 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 the Sonoma County Water Agency, 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 obtaining copies of the draft proposed budget for fiscal year 2020-21:

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 18, 2020, 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 19, 2020, to:
Clerk of the Board
Board Meeting Room, as set forth in the opening paragraph

Date of this Notice: March 31, 2020

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 19, 2020, 8:30 a.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 2020-2021 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