



**Sonoma
Water**

SPRING 2025 NEWS

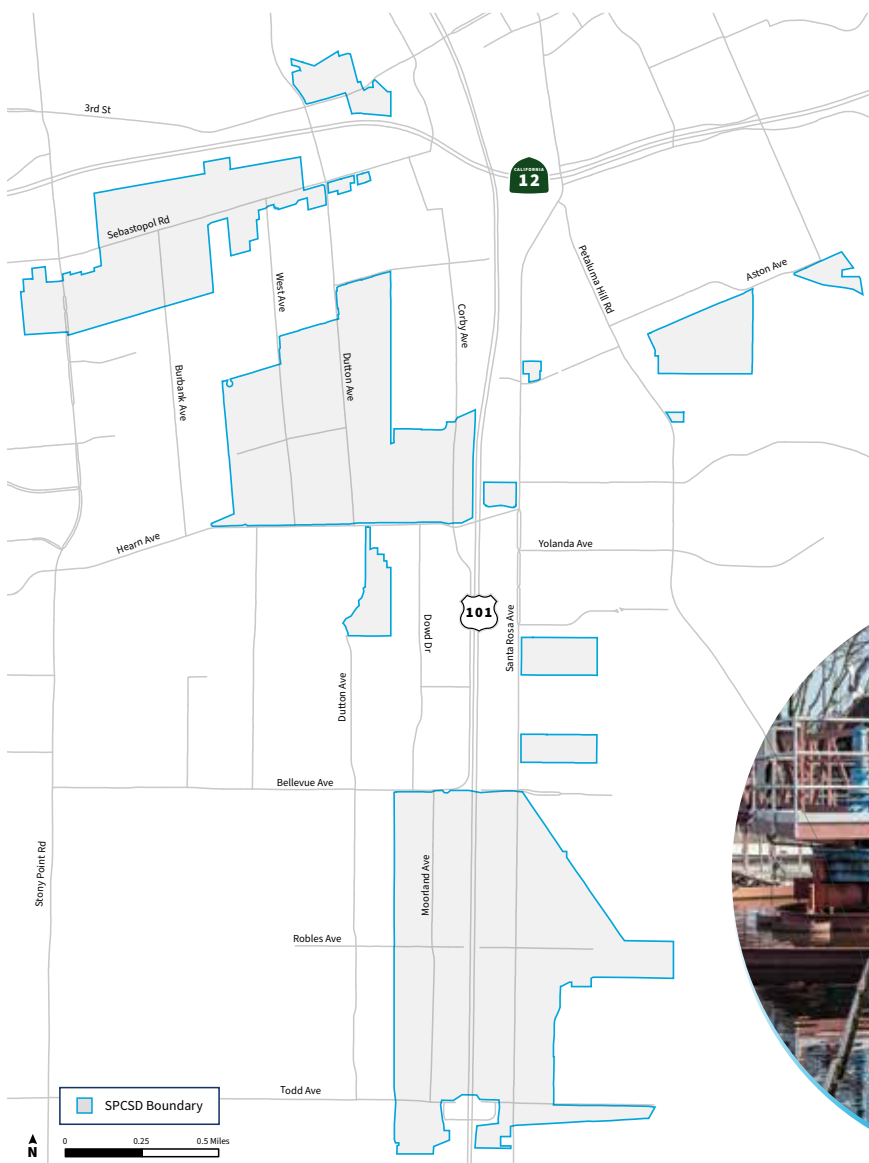
Vol. 13, Issue #1

South Park County Sanitation District

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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 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.



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.

2025 program applications are due **July 10**.

Learn more and apply:
sonomawater.org/srrp

Sonoma Water

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 Call: 707-543-3985



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.

Maintaining and Repairing Aging Infrastructure

Sonoma Water has been managing eight wastewater districts and zones across Sonoma County since 1995, when it assumed responsibility from the Sonoma County Public Works Department. These districts and zones vary in age, from over 70 years old (Sonoma Valley, Occidental) to 42 years old (Russian River, Airport/Larkfield/Wikiup), and all face significant financial challenges. Aging collection and treatment systems require continuous maintenance and periodic replacement projects.

As water quality regulations grow stricter, the costs of compliance—both operational and capital—continue to rise. Many of these districts and zones are small, with relatively few ratepayers to share the increasing financial burden.

This year, proposed rate increases for several districts and zones are higher than in recent years. Sonoma Water understands that rate increases can create financial strain for ratepayers and is actively pursuing grants and loans to help offset some capital project costs. These increases are essential to maintain and replace aging infrastructure, address deferred maintenance in some areas, and ensure these public assets remain in good condition. By responsibly managing the systems, Sonoma Water seeks to protect public health and the environment.

Below, you'll find details about the proposed rate increase for your district or zone, including a breakdown of how funds are collected and allocated. A list of planned projects for the upcoming year is also provided.

	FY24-25	FY25-26 Proposed
ESDs	4,476	4,499
Annual Rate per ESD	\$1,190	\$1,232
Annual Increase	\$40	\$42
Monthly Rate per ESD	\$99.17	\$102.67
Monthly Increase	\$3.33	\$3.50
Rate Increase	3.5%	3.5%
Increased Revenue	\$179,040	\$188,958

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 13, 2025 at the Board of Supervisors chambers. (A protest form and rate hearing information are available on pages 4-7 of this notice).

*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.

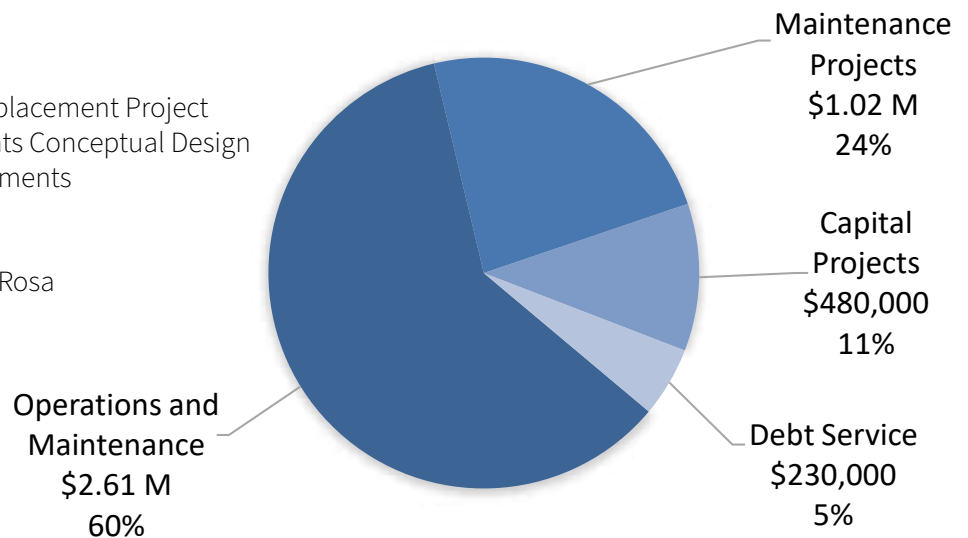
FY 2025-2026 Budgeted Expenditures \$4.34 Million

Capital Projects – \$480,000

- Barbara-Winston Collection System Replacement Project
- Santa Rosa Avenue Sewer Improvements Conceptual Design
- Sewer Dedication and Easement Agreements

Maintenance Projects – \$1.02 Million

- Rate Study for Transfer to City of Santa Rosa
- Sanitation Code & Standard Update



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 13, 2025 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, 2025.

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, 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, 2025, the District proposes a fixed charge of \$470.78 per ESD per year. This represents an annual increase of \$15.92 or \$1.33 per month. All District customers will pay the fixed charge.

The proposed fixed charge component of the Sewer Charge will be calculated as follows:

$\$470.78 \text{ per ESD} \times \text{Number of ESD's} = \text{Fixed Charge Component of the Sewer Charge}$

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

Sewer Customers	Calculation of Annual Water Usage	Charge Per Thousand Gallons
With a City of Santa Rosa Water Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District will calculate Customer’s average monthly winter water usage. • Average winter water usage will be multiplied by 12 to determine annual water usage. 	\$13.74
With No City of Santa Rosa Water Connection part or all of the time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District will calculate Customer’s average monthly winter water usage of similar residential customers that have a City of Santa Rosa water connection. • Water use will be estimated based on household size and water use data from comparable metered customers. • Average winter water usage will be multiplied by 12 to determine annual water usage. 	\$13.74

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

Sewer Customers	Calculation of Annual Water Usage	Charge Per Thousand Gallons
With a City of Santa Rosa Water Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District will add up the customer’s actual monthly water usage for 12 months to arrive at the total annual water usage. 	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"> • District will average annual water usage from similar customers based on City of Santa Rosa water usage data. • 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. • Average winter water usage will be multiplied by 12 to determine annual water usage. 	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"> • District will average annual water usage from similar customers based on City of Santa Rosa water usage data. • 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. • Average winter water usage will be multiplied by 12 to determine annual water usage. 	Based on estimated wastewater strength, shown in Table 2b below

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

Categories of Wastewater Strength and Examples of Types of Uses	Charge per Thousand Gallons
Low Strength - car wash, glass products	\$11.82
Standard Strength – residential, condominium complexes, multi-family complexes, mobile home parks, warehouses, general commercial/industrial including retail, schools, churches, auto sales, dental and medical offices.	\$13.74
Medium Strength – mixed use commercial; hotel/motel, convenience store, bar, winery, brewery, auto repair.	\$15.78
High Strength – bakery, restaurant, coffee shop, meat and food processing, miller, hospital, veterinary clinic.	\$19.52

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:

\$470.78 per ESD X Number of ESDs (*Fixed Charge Component*) +

\$13.74 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:

\$470.78 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 2025-26 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>.

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 2025-26, 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 12, 2025 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 12, 2025 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 22, 2025.**

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 7, 2025

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 13, 2025 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 2025-2026 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 2025-2026.

FECHA DE LA AUDIENCIA

13 de mayo de 2025 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.



**Sonoma
Water**

Clean. Reliable. Essential. Every day.
SonomaWater.org/SPCSD