



Notice of Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Increase to City of San Bruno Sewer (Wastewater) Rate

The City of San Bruno is proposing sewer rate increases over the next five years to provide adequate funding for operations, the City's contractual share of costs for wastewater treatment at the regional Water Quality Control Plant, and high-priority capital improvements needed to support safe and reliable service including rehabilitation and replacement of aging sewer system infrastructure. San Bruno's sewer utility is a financially self-supporting enterprise that relies primarily on revenues from service charges. As such rates need to be set adequate levels to support the costs of providing service.

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of San Bruno will hold a public hearing on the proposed sewer rate increases as follows:

Date: Tuesday, June 13, 2023
Time: 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard
Place: San Bruno Senior Center
1555 Crystal Springs Road
San Bruno, CA 94066

Members of the public may attend the meeting in person at the San Bruno Senior Center or attend by any other options as described in City Council Agenda. Please check the agenda for the June 13, 2023, meeting for additional information about how you can participate in the public hearing.

San Bruno Sewer Rates to Remain in the Middle Range for San Mateo County

The proposed sewer rate increases are provided in the chart below. For most customers, the proposed increases will equate to approximately 5% in each of the next five years, with the first increase effective starting July 1, 2023. The exact percentage increase will vary depending on customer class, meter size, and amount of billed wastewater usage. The City's sewer charges for a typical home are currently in the middle range compared with other agencies in San Mateo County and are projected to remain the middle range in future years.

Rate Increases Needed to Fund Operations & Replacement of Aging Infrastructure

San Bruno's sewer rates have not been adjusted since July 1, 2020. However, the sewer utility has been facing rising costs for operations as well as for its contractual share of costs for wastewater treatment and infrastructure improvements at the regional Water Quality Control Plant operated by South San Francisco. The proposed rates are needed to provide adequate funding for sewer system operations, maintenance, debt service, wastewater treatment, and capital improvements to both the City's aging sewer collection system and the Water Quality Control Plant. In recent years, the City has replaced and upgraded four sewer pump stations and replaced 33,730 lineal feet of pipelines. Over the next five years, the City will continue moving forward with its sewer pipeline replacement program. San Bruno has a lot of aging sewer pipelines that were installed 50 to 100 years ago that are reaching the end of their useful life.

Customer Assistance Program

The City is aware that the proposed wastewater rate increases will place some additional financial burden on ratepayers and offers utility rate discount programs for water, sewer, and CityNet services based on income eligibility. This discount is currently set at 25% of the Water and Sewer rate. Customers who are eligible for the discount program are encouraged to apply. Information about the City's Low Income Application discount programs is available online at <https://www.sanbruno.ca.gov/274/Forms-New-Service-Applications>.

Proposed Sewer Rates

The City proposes to phase in a series of gradual annual sewer rate increases over the next five years, as shown below. San Bruno’s sewer rates include two components:

- **Fixed Monthly Service Charges:** Single family homes pay a fixed Monthly Service Charge per residence. All other customers – including commercial, governmental, industrial and multi-family residential accounts – pay fixed charges based on water meter size.
- **Quantity Charges:** Quantity charges vary by customer class and wastewater strength and are billed based on each customer’s usage. Residential customers are billed based on metered water use from two bi-monthly billing periods from January through April, a period of minimal outdoor irrigation. Commercial and other customers are billed based on metered water use during each billing period throughout the year. The City’s quantity charges are billed in units of one hundred cubic feet (hcf). One hcf equals approximately 748 gallons. Hence the proposed Residential quantity charges will increase from the current equivalent of approximately 1.65 cents per gallon to 2.10 cents per gallon over the next five years. The proposed rates also account for some adjustments designed to keep rates aligned with the cost of providing service to each customer class.

Sewer rates are billed bi-monthly (once every two months) on the City’s combined utility bill.

Proposed Wastewater Rates						
	Current Sewer Rates	Proposed Wastewater Rates Effective On or After				
		July 1 2023	July 1 2024	July 1 2025	July 1 2026	July 1 2027
MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGES						
<i>Fixed monthly charge per account</i>						
Single Family Residential	\$32.27	\$33.96	\$35.74	\$37.61	\$39.59	\$41.66
All Other Customers (Based on Water Meter Size)						
<u>Meter Size</u>						
3/4-inch	\$32.27	\$33.96	\$35.74	\$37.61	\$39.59	\$41.66
1-inch	53.78	56.60	59.57	62.69	65.98	69.43
1-1/2 inch	107.57	113.20	119.14	125.38	131.95	138.87
2-inch	172.11	181.13	190.62	200.61	211.12	222.19
3-inch	322.70	339.61	357.41	376.14	395.85	416.60
4" & Larger	537.83	566.02	595.68	626.90	659.76	694.33
QUANTITY CHARGES						
<i>Billed per hundred cubic feet (hcf) based on customer classification</i>						
Residential	\$12.37	\$12.98	\$13.61	\$14.28	\$14.97	\$15.71
Commercial						
C-1 Light Commercial	\$11.50	\$12.05	\$12.63	\$13.23	\$13.87	\$14.53
C-2 Medium Commercial	12.37	12.98	13.61	14.28	14.97	15.71
C-3 Heavy Commercial	17.61	18.54	19.51	20.54	21.62	22.76
C-4 Special Commercial	22.86	24.11	25.42	26.81	28.27	29.82
Government	12.37	12.98	13.61	14.28	14.97	15.71
Industrial						
I-1 Light Industrial	\$12.37	\$12.98	\$13.61	\$14.28	\$14.97	\$15.71
I-2 Industrial						
Flow	8.88	9.27	9.68	10.10	10.54	11.01
COD per lb ³	0.68	0.72	0.76	0.81	0.85	0.90
SS per lb	1.41	1.49	1.58	1.68	1.78	1.88

Note: One hundred cubic feet (hcf) equals approximately 748 gallons.

Public Hearing and Protest Process

At the public hearing, the City Council will hear and consider all objections or protests to the proposed increases to sewer rates. Any property owner or property tenant that is directly responsible for payment of sewer rates (each a “customer”) may submit a written protest against the proposed increase. If a parcel has more than one customer, only one written protest against the proposed increase will be counted. A majority protest against the proposed increases will exist if at the end of the public hearing there are written protests submitted by a majority of the customers subject to the proposed rate increases. The City Council cannot adopt the proposed rate increases if a majority protest exists.

Written protests may be emailed to cityclerk@sanbruno.ca.gov or mailed or personally delivered to: Sewer Rate Protest, City of San Bruno, Office of the City Clerk, 567 El Camino Real, San Bruno, CA 94066. Written protests may also be personally delivered to the City Clerk during the public hearing. To be counted, the protest must (1) be in writing, (2) state opposition to the proposed rate increase, (3) identify the parcel (by assessor’s parcel number or street address), (4) include the original signature of the customer submitting the protest, and (5) be received before the conclusion of the public hearing on June 13, 2023. Protests which are mailed or delivered to the Office of the City Clerk must arrive prior to 4:00 p.m. on June 13, 2023, to be counted. All written protests, including those received by email, must include a signature of the customer to be counted.