



April 9, 2024

Sanitary Sewer Services

Update to 2024 Sanitary Sewer Rates

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the proposed rate change for FY 2024-2025?

The proposed rate increase is approximately 9 % for single-family residents. See “Sewer Service and Use Charges Schedule of Proposed Rates” table for monthly and annual costs for the various residential rate categories:

SEWER SERVICE AND USE CHARGES SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED RATES

USE (RESIDENCE)	CURRENT RATES 2023-2024		PROPOSED RATES (Effective July 1, 2024)		MONTHLY CHANGE
	<u>Per Month*</u>	<u>Per Year</u>	<u>Per Month*</u>	<u>Per Year</u>	
Single-Family Residence	\$45.49	\$545.88	\$49.59	\$595.08	\$4.10
Multiple-Family Residence (per unit)	\$30.48	\$365.75	\$33.23	\$398.76	\$2.75
Mobile Home (per unit)	\$34.34	\$412.08	\$37.44	\$449.28	\$3.10

**Monthly charge is used for prorating a partial year charge.*

Why are rates changing?

The proposed increase will enable the City to ensure continued, reliable utility services while protecting public health and the San Francisco Bay.

The charge covers costs associated with the San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility (Facility) and San José’s 2,000-mile sewage collection system, including operations and maintenance, and capital and equipment improvements. The Facility is in the middle of substantial capital improvements, increasing its self-sufficiency through renewable energy generation as well as rigorous review and implementation of cutting-edge sustainable technologies. As the Facility modernizes and implements changes to the treatment process, additional operating costs are anticipated associated with the shift from the traditional drying bed process to onsite dewatering of biosolids in 2025. Additional drivers of increased costs include inflationary factors for chemicals and solid waste hauling as well as assuring compliance with stricter environmental regulations. The sanitary sewer system also needs additional resources to continue operation and maintenance of the system in a manner that complies with regulations. In addition to addressing ongoing maintenance issues, this rate change will enable

the City to purchase new equipment to improve the effectiveness of sewer line cleaning, odor control, condition assessment, and repair.

San José did not have a Sanitary Sewer Service and Use Charge rate increase during the current fiscal year that started July 1, 2023 and ends June 30, 2024. The current notice identifies the highest potential sanitary sewer rate changes; proposed rate changes may be lower when presented to Council for approval. The new rate would be effective July 1, 2024.

How do I submit a rate protest?

Submit written protests to the Office of the City Clerk in the form of a letter, fax, or email prior to the close of the public hearing on June 4, 2024. You must indicate the Assessor’s Parcel Number(s) of the property(ies) you own that are subject to the proposed rate adjustment. The parcel number is printed on the front panel of the rate notice. If there is a majority protest, the increase will not be adopted

Mail, fax or email your written protests to:

Mail	Fax	Email
Sewer Services Rate Increase City of San José – Office of the City Clerk 200 E. Santa Clara St., 14 th Floor San José, California 95113-1905	(408) 292-6207 Sewer Services Rate Increase	SewerRateProtest@sanjoseca.gov

The Council Meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall at 200 East Santa Clara Street, San José. Up to date information on hearings will be posted online on the City Council Agenda for the meeting. City Council meetings may be attended in-person and viewed streaming through SanJoseCA.gov/CivicCenterTV.

How much have residential single-family rates changed in the last few years?

Fiscal Years*	Monthly Rate	Percentage Increase
FY 2023 - 24	\$45.49	0%
FY 2022 - 23	\$45.49	9%
FY 2021 - 22	\$41.64	0%
FY 2020 - 21	\$41.64	4%
FY 2019 - 20	\$40.07	3%

*“FY” refers to the term fiscal year, from July 1- June 30

Will there be another rate change next year, too?

The need for rate changes is evaluated each year. If changes to rates are needed, rate notices will be sent with information about the public hearing and the protest process.

Will money from Sanitary Sewer rates be used for other projects elsewhere in the City?

No. Sanitary Sewer Service and Use Charge funds can only be used to pay for sanitary sewer related services. It cannot be used to pay for other City services such as parks or libraries.

The amount on my property tax for Sewer Services is higher than the rates mentioned in the letter.

The fees for Sanitary Sewer and Storm sewer are combined as one line item on your property tax bill. Currently, for a single-family home, the amount for Sewer Sani/Storm should be \$94.44 per year.

July 1, 2023– June 30, 2024 Sanitary and Storm sewer rates

Sewer Services	Monthly Rate	Annual Cost
Sanitary	\$45.49	\$545.88
Storm	\$7.87	\$94.44
	Total Sewer Sani/Storm	\$640.32

The following table shows fiscal year 2023-2024 residential Storm Service Charge rates depending on the type of home owned.

RESIDENCE TYPE	PER MONTH*	PER YEAR
Single-Family Residence and Duplex	\$7.87	\$94.44
Large Multiple-Family Residence (5 or more units), Per Unit	\$4.30	\$51.60
Small Multiple-Family Residence (3-4 Units)	\$14.95	\$179.40
Residential Condominium, Per Unit	\$4.30	\$51.60
Mobile Home	\$3.94	\$47.28
*Monthly charge is used for prorating a partial year charge.		

Residential service charges are placed on the property tax roll and collected by the County of Santa Clara County, Department of Tax and Collections.

I am a senior and on a fixed income, are there any reduced rates?

There are no senior or low-income subsidized rates. All users of the Sanitary Sewer System are required to pay for Sanitary Sewer Service and Use charges. The Sanitary Sewer system is based on full cost recovery from ratepayers and is not subsidized by any other funding source. Rates for these services were last increased in July 2022, and remain among the lowest in the region.

Please note for most properties, the Sanitary Sewer Service and Use Charge is combined with the Storm Sewer Charge on the annual property tax bill and collected by the County of Santa Clara. **This notice relates only to the sanitary Sewer Service and Use Charge. The proposed rate increases are separate and apart from the Storm Sewer Charge, which is not changing.**

Where can I learn more about my Sanitary Sewer Services?

Go to SanJoseca.gov/Wastewater for more information about the San José - Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility (Facility). Take a virtual tour to learn more about the wastewater treatment process and the area the Facility serves.

How can I obtain this information in other formats and languages?

This information is available in multiple languages by clicking on the appropriate links on SanJoseCA.gov/RateNotices, or in alternative formats such as braille, large print, audiotope, or flash drive by calling (408) 535-3500 (voice) or (800) 735-2929 (California Relay).