

Sanitary Sewer Services

2022 Rate Notice Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the proposed rate change for FY 2022-2023?

The proposed rate increase is approximately 9 percent for Single-Family residents. See table 1 for monthly and annual costs for the various residential rate categories:

SEWER SERVICE AND USE CHARGES SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED RATES 2022-2023

<u>RATES FOR RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER CATEGORIES</u>					
	2021-22 CURRENT RATES		2022-23 PROPOSED RATES		MONTHLY CHANGE
	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Per Year</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Per Year</u>	
Single-Family Residence	\$41.64	\$499.68	\$45.49	\$545.88	\$3.85
Multiple-Family Residence (per unit)	\$27.90	\$334.80	\$30.48	\$365.76	\$2.58
Mobile Home (per unit)	\$31.43	\$377.16	\$34.34	\$412.08	\$2.91

2. Why are rates changing?

The Sanitary Sewer Service and Use Charge (SSUC) covers costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility (Facility) and San José's 2,200-mile sewage collection system. This also includes capital and equipment improvements; meeting regulatory requirements; program administration; and helping to enhance and restore the natural habitat that surrounds the Facility. Funding must be self-supporting and cannot be supported by other funds. The proposed rate increase is required to ensure all regulatory requirements are met and to ensure effective operation and maintenance and infrastructure capital improvements of the sanitary sewer collection system and San Jose-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility.

San José did not have a Sanitary Sewer Service and Use Charge rate increase during the current fiscal year that started July 1, 2021. The City of San José recognizes that these are unprecedented and difficult times. The current notice identifies the highest potential sanitary sewer rate changes; proposed rate changes may be lower when presented to Council for approval.

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

Fiscal Years	Monthly Rate	Percentage Increase
FY 2021 - 22	\$41.64	0%
FY 2020 - 21	\$41.64	4%
FY 2019 - 20	\$40.07	3%
FY 2018 - 19	\$38.90	3%
FY 2017 - 18	\$37.91	7%

4. 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.

5. 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

6. 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 \$594.12.

July 1, 2021– June 30, 2022 Sanitary and Storm sewer rates

Sewer Services	Monthly Rate	Annual Cost
Sanitary	\$41.64	\$499.68
Storm	\$7.87	\$94.44
	Total Sewer Sani/Storm	\$594.12

The following table shows fiscal year 2021-2022 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.

7. 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 their share of the cost.

8. Where can I learn more about my Sanitary Sewer Services?

Go to www.sanjoseca.gov/wastewater for more information about the San José /Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility. Learn about the wastewater treatment process and the area the Facility serves. View a video with a virtual tour.