



Department of Public Works

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Brendon Biggs, M.S., P.E.
Director

Noel Castillo, P.E.
Assistant Director

David Doublet, M.S., P.E.
Assistant Director

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Increase of Sewer Rates For County Service Area 82 (Searles Valley)

Dear Property Owner:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to State law (Proposition 218), San Bernardino County, County Service Area 82 Searles Valley (CSA 82) Board of Supervisors (Board) will conduct a public hearing on March 28, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the Covington Chambers, First Floor, 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, San Bernardino, California, as part of its regularly scheduled meeting, to consider proposed increases to rates charged for sewer services. The Board will hold a public hearing pursuant to Article XIID of the California Constitution and will mail (or cause to be mailed) this notice at least 45 days prior to the public hearing. If adopted, the proposed rate changes will become effective on July 1, 2023. This notice is sent to all owners of property upon which rates are proposed within CSA 82.

While CSA 82 continually strives for cost efficiency and the maximization of assets, it also needs to keep pace with inflation, labor, material, and other operational cost increases including compliance with State imposed regulations. All revenue generated from customer sewer bills is used to pay for the regulatory changes, ongoing operation, maintenance, repair and replacement of the existing sewer system. The last rate increase was applied to CSA 82 in fiscal year 2017/2018. By State law, CSA 82 may not collect more revenue than is necessary to recover the costs of providing services. The proposed rate increase of 3.5% aligns with California CPI to offset rising costs. If approved, the adjusted rates would commence July 1, 2023, and adjust annually thereafter on July 1 of the following year.

The CSA 82 sewer charge is based on a fixed monthly sewer charge based on equivalent dwelling units (EDUs) regardless of the type of customer. The fee for multi-family residential and non-residential customers will be dependent on the number of EDUs associated with the property. The following table shows the proposed sewer rates over the next three years.

Description	Current Charge	Proposed FY 23/24	Proposed FY 24/25	Proposed FY 25/26
Flat Charge	(\$/EDU per Month)	(\$/EDU per Month)	(\$/EDU per Month)	(\$/EDU per Month)
All Customers	\$74.97	\$77.59	\$80.31	\$83.12

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This notice has been mailed to the parcel owners listed on the Assessor's Property Information Management System. Persons responsible for the payment of the service charges, which includes owners of real property subject to the fee increases (or renters of such property who actually pay the fee) in CSA 82, who wish to protest the increases can send in a written protest to the address below or attend the public hearing on the rate action to register their written protest at the hearing. Only one written protest per identified parcel (i.e., address/assessor parcel number) relating to the fee increase will be counted. Written protests must be received prior to the close of the public hearing. Any written protests received following the close of the public hearing will not be counted.

Any property owner or tenant may submit a written protest to the proposed changes to rates. Written protests can be submitted by U.S. mail to the following address:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
San Bernardino County
385 N. Arrowhead Ave, 2nd Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415

Written protests must be received prior to and during the public hearing by the Clerk of the Board on March 28, 2023. A written protest must (at a minimum) include (1) your original signature; (2) identification of the parcel by address or assessor's parcel number; (3) whether you are an owner or renter; and (4) a clear statement protesting the specific rate pursuant to this notice. Written protests will not be accepted by e-mail or by fax. Verbal protests will not be counted.

The Board will not implement the rate increase should a majority written protest against the proposed increased fees be received on all identified parcels subject to the increase.

You have the right to withdraw a written protest that you previously submitted prior to the conclusion of the public hearing. The Board will count all written protests received (not postmarked) prior to the conclusion of the hearing. The Board will not count written protests submitted after the conclusion of the public hearing.

If you do not want to protest the proposed rates, you do not need to take any action. If you do want to protest the proposed rates, you must provide a written protest as outlined above. If you challenge this proposal in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this Public Hearing Notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at, or prior to the Public Hearing.

For more information or questions, please call (760) 955-9885.