

## CITY OF SAN JACINTO NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING ADJUSTMENTS TO WASTEWATER SERVICE FEES

**Notice is hereby given** that the San Jacinto City Council will conduct a **public hearing** in the Council Chambers, 625 South Pico, San Jacinto California, on June 15, 2021, to discuss proposed adjustments to the rates for its wastewater service fees. You are receiving this notice because you are the record owner or account holder of a property that receives wastewater service from the City. In the event that the public hearing will be held virtually, information on participating virtually will be provided at www.sanjacintoca.gov.

## Reasons for the Proposed Rate Adjustments to Wastewater Service Fees

The City's wastewater collection system is made up of approximately 178 miles of sewer pipelines and 2,772 manholes. As the City does not own a treatment system, all sewage is transferred to Eastern Municipal Water District's treatment plant. Eastern Municipal Water District's treatment charges are directly passed through to customers at the current rate of \$26.77 per Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU), along with a Capital Fixed Charge of \$2.75 per month per account. To determine the amount of EDUs assigned to your specific property use, please contact EMWD.

The City further proposes to pass through any increase to the rates adopted by Eastern Municipal Water District that are imposed on the City for a five year period commencing July 1, 2021, provided no such increase shall cause the rates to exceed the cost of providing sewer service. Any such increase shall apply to the Eastern Municipal Water District treatment charges and Capital Fixed Charge exclusively, and shall not cause the rate for either the treatment charge or the Capital Fixed Charge to increase by more than 15% in any calendar year. The City shall mail notice in advance of implementing any such pass through increase.

In addition, the City imposes wastewater charges for the costs associated with collecting wastewater. In 2020, the City retained an independent consultant to do a rate study and cost of service analysis for the City's wastewater charges related to its collection system (the "Study"). The Study found that rate increases are necessary in order to ensure adequate revenue to fund operating expenses, achieve reserve policy targets, fund long-term capital programs, and comply with existing debt covenants related to the City's wastewater collection system. The Study is available for public inspection at City Hall, or may be viewed on the City's website at www.sanjacintoca.gov.

On May 19, 2020, the San Jacinto City Council approved the current wastewater rates. The proposed rates below address the future fiscal needs listed in the Study, and would increase rates for the upcoming four fiscal years.

The Wastewater billing structure remains unchanged with customers being billed either by EDU or flow. Customers billed based upon flow are Commercial, School, and Church facilities. Flow is calculated based on monthly water usage (hcf) multiplied by the current rate. The rates proposed in the table below are in addition to the rates imposed by Eastern Municipal Water District and passed through to the City's property owners for treatment. Single Family residential bill impacts in the first year will be \$.70 per month, while those based on flow would increase approximately \$1.50 per month (based on an average of 25 hcf).

## **Proposed Monthly Wastewater Charges**

Charge Type	Current Rates	FYE 2022	FYE 2023	FYE 2024	FYE 2025
Per EDU	\$5.83	\$6.53	\$7.05	\$7.61	\$8.22
Per hcf	\$0.53	\$0.59	\$0.64	\$0.69	\$0.75
Note: 1 EDU = 11 hcf					

## **Public Hearing and Written Protests**

Prior to adopting the proposed adjustment to the rates for the City's and wastewater service fees, the City Council must hold a public hearing. As noted above, the public hearing will be held on June 15, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, at the regular meeting place of the City Council, 625 South Pico Ave. (San Jacinto Community Center), San Jacinto CA, 92583. Should the meeting be held virtually, information on how to participate will be provided at www.sanjacintoca.gov.

As a property owner whose property is subject to the proposed rate adjustments or a tenant directly liable for the payment of wastewater service fees, you may submit to the City a protest against the proposed rate adjustments. Any protest must be: (1) in writing; (2) state that the identified owner or tenant opposes the proposed rate adjustments; (3) provide the location of the identified property (by assessor's parcel number, street address, or customer account number); and (4) include the signature of the property owner or tenant submitting the protest. Written protests may be scanned and emailed to jespinoza@sanjacintoca.gov, submitted by mail to PO Box 488, San Jacinto, CA 92581, delivered in person to the City Clerk or payment drop box located at the Sixth Street entrance of City Hall at 595 S. San Jacinto Ave., 92583, or at the public hearing (date and time noted above), so long as they are received prior to the close of the public hearing. Please identify on the front of the envelope (or email subject line) for any protest, whether emailed, mailed or submitted in person to the City Clerk, that the enclosed protest is for the Public Hearing on the Proposed Wastewater Service Fees, or both. Only one protest will be counted per identified parcel, regardless of the number of property owners or tenants<sup>1</sup> of any identified parcel who submit a written protest.

At the time of the public hearing, the City Council will hear and consider all public comments and written protests against the proposed rate adjustments. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the City Council will consider adoption of a resolution authorizing the proposed rate adjustments. Oral comments at the public hearing will not qualify as formal protests unless accompanied by a written protest. If, at the close of the public hearing, written protests against the proposed rates as outlined above are not presented by a majority of owners and tenants of the identified parcels upon which the fees are proposed to be imposed, the City Council will be authorized to impose the rate adjustments. If adopted, the rate adjustments will be in effect for wastewater use commencing July 1, 2021, and adjusted rates will appear on bills beginning August 15, 2021.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice of Public Hearing, the Public Hearing, or the rates applicable to your property, please contact the San Jacinto Water Department at 951-537-6386 or visit our website at www.sanjacintoca.gov.

<u>EN ESPAÑOL</u>: Para informacion, por favor llame al 951-537-6386.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Any tenant who wishes to submit a written protest at the public hearing shall submit written proof with such protest of their responsibility for payment of wastewater service fees.