



## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGES TO SEWER RATES**

Hearing Date & Time: August 4, 2026, 6:30 PM  
Hearing Location: San Jacinto Community Center  
625 S. Pico Avenue, San Jacinto, CA 92583

### ***Why are you receiving this notice?***

The City of San Jacinto (City) is mailing this notice to you because you are a sewer (wastewater) customer, or record owner of property, that receives sewer service from the City. This notice is being provided pursuant to Article XIII D of the California Constitution (commonly referred to as "Proposition 218"), which requires the City to notify property owners and customers of proposed changes to property-related fees, including sewer service charges. This notice describes proposed changes to the City's sewer rates and provides information regarding the Public Hearing at which the City Council will consider the adoption of the proposed rates. **The Public Hearing will be held on August 4, 2026, at 6:30 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, at the San Jacinto Community Center, 625 S. Pico Avenue, San Jacinto, California 92583.** If adopted, the proposed rates for sewer service will be in effect for service provided on and after January 1, 2027.

### ***What do sewer rates fund?***

The City of San Jacinto owns, operates, and maintains a wastewater collection system that provides sewer service to residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and other customers throughout the City's sewer service area. The wastewater utility system is critical infrastructure that protects public health, preserves environmental quality, and supports the continued operation and development of the community. The City operates its own wastewater collection system, which consists of approximately 178 miles of sewer mains ranging in size from 6 to 18 inches in diameter, together with manholes, service laterals, and related collection and conveyance facilities necessary to collect and transport wastewater generated by homes, businesses, schools, parks, and public facilities throughout the community. The wastewater collection system must be continuously maintained and operated to ensure reliable service, minimize the risk of sewer overflows and system failures, and comply with applicable environmental and regulatory requirements.

Wastewater collected within the City's collection system is conveyed to the Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) regional wastewater system for treatment and disposal. The City relies exclusively on EMWD to convey and treat the City's wastewater at the San Jacinto Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility through a series of interconnections between the City's collection facilities and EMWD's regional system. Sewer rates fund the City's share of costs associated with wastewater collection, conveyance, treatment, disposal, operations, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, replacement, regulatory compliance, administration, and long-term capital improvements necessary to maintain reliable wastewater service.

The City has caused to be prepared a comprehensive sewer rate study to evaluate the current and projected financial condition of the sewer utility, assess the costs necessary to provide reliable sewer service, and determine the funding needed to support operations, maintenance, capital improvements, and other utility obligations over the next five years. Sewer rates are the primary source of revenue used to support the ongoing operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, replacement, and improvement of the City's wastewater utility infrastructure and facilities. Sewer rate revenues also support reserve funding, emergency response needs, and capital improvement projects necessary to maintain reliable wastewater service and protect public health and the environment. The sewer rates were designed so that revenues from proposed rates do not exceed the amount required to provide the service, nor will rate revenue be used for purposes other than those for which they are imposed.

### ***Why are sewer rate changes needed?***

The City has evaluated the financial needs of the sewer utility based on the results of the sewer rate study and financial planning process completed by an independent consultant. The purpose of the study is to evaluate the current and projected costs of providing wastewater service and determine the funding necessary to support ongoing operations, maintenance, capital improvements, regulatory compliance, and financial stability over the planning period.

The City has experienced increasing costs associated with operating and maintaining the wastewater utility system, including increases in labor, materials, construction, treatment, disposal, energy, and regulatory compliance costs. In addition, portions

of the wastewater collection system require ongoing rehabilitation, repair, and replacement to maintain reliable service and reduce the risk of system failures and emergency repairs.

The proposed rate adjustments are intended to provide sufficient revenues to support the continued operation and maintenance of the wastewater utility system, fund necessary capital improvements, maintain prudent reserve levels, and ensure the long-term financial stability of the utility. The proposed rates are based on a cost-of-service methodology intended to allocate costs proportionally among customer classes based on the demand and usage characteristics associated with providing sewer service.

The amount of the proposed rates imposed on any parcel or person as an incident of property ownership will not exceed the proportional cost of the service attributable to that parcel, and no charge will be imposed for service unless the service is actually used by, or immediately available to, the property owner or customer.

***How are sewer rates determined and how do they work?***

To develop rates that generate sufficient revenues to meet the fiscal and operational needs of the wastewater utility, the City evaluated projected revenues and expenditures over a multi-year planning period. Revenue requirements include costs associated with operations, maintenance, repair and replacement of infrastructure, wastewater treatment and disposal, capital improvements, reserve funding, and administrative support necessary to provide reliable wastewater service.

The proposed sewer rates are designed to recover the cost of providing wastewater service in a fair and equitable manner consistent with industry standards and applicable legal requirements. The rates are structured to ensure that customers pay an amount proportional to the cost of serving them based on factors such as wastewater flow characteristics, customer type, and system demand.

The City is proposing to implement the proposed sewer rates as a series of annual adjustments beginning January 1, 2027, and then each January 1 thereafter through and including January 1, 2031. The following sections summarize the proposed rates, which will go into effect and remain in effect unless modified by future City Council action.

***Proposed Monthly Sewer Rates – January 1, 2027 through January 1, 2031***

Proposed sewer rates consist of one of two rate methodologies being either 1) a monthly fixed charge for all residential customers and certain non-residential customers (e.g., commercial single and multi-unit, certain churches, hotels, and Park Hill Elementary School) charged per Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) regardless of usage or 2) a volumetric charge per 100 cubic feet (100 cubic feet = 1 unit of water = 748 gallons) for certain non-residential customers (e.g., certain churches, all restaurants, commercial/industrial, and all schools except Park Hill Elementary School). Customers are subject to only the monthly fixed charge or the volumetric charge but not both based on property class as noted above. The rate structure was designed so that each customer will be charged an amount that represents their proportional share of the City's cost of serving them, based on their demand and usage characteristics.

In addition to the City's sewer rates for collection, and as shown in the following table, EMWD imposes charges for treatment and disposal of customer wastewater. EMWD provides the City's wastewater treatment and disposal through EMWD's regional facilities. For customers that receive water service from the City, the EMWD charges are included in your City of San Jacinto utility bill. For customers that do not receive water service from the City, EMWD will bill those properties directly and include the City's sewer service charges for collection in the EMWD utility bill. Therefore, each sewer service customer is responsible for the City's collection and distribution sewer rates plus the EMWD treatment and disposal charges. The City does not control EMWD's charges for sewer treatment and disposal, and it is possible the EMWD charges will increase by varying amounts in future years.

Description	Existing Rates	Projected For Fiscal Year Beginning January 1				
		2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
<b>Monthly Fixed Charge:</b> <sup>[1]</sup>						
All Customers (Per EDU)	\$ 8.22	\$ 10.48	\$ 14.15	\$ 19.10	\$ 19.67	\$ 20.26
<b>Volumetric Rates Per 100 Cubic Feet:</b> <sup>[2]</sup>						
See Footnote	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.95	\$ 1.29	\$ 1.74	\$ 1.79	\$ 1.84
<b>EMWD Related Charges:</b> <sup>[3]</sup>						
Sewer (per EDU)	\$ 8.22	\$ 10.48	Subject to EMWD Updated Rates			
Sewer (per Sewage Unit)	\$ 40.31	\$ 40.31	Subject to EMWD Updated Rates			

**Notes:**

- [1] Fixed sewer charges apply to all customer classes except those listed in Footnote 2 below.
- [2] Volumetric sewer charges only apply to the following customer classes: 1) Commercial/Industrial, 2) Church - Per Water Use (excludes Church per Unit), 3) All Restaurants, and 4) All Schools except Park Hill Elementary.
- [3] Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) provides sewer treatment services to the City of San Jacinto. These charges are independent of the City's sewer collection rates and will be charged in addition to the City's rates. The City of San Jacinto has no control over EMWD's rates. The EMWD rates provided in this table are subject to change. No analysis of EMWD's rates was conducted, they are provided for informational purposes only.

**What is the Impact on your sewer bill?**

Based on the proposed **monthly** rates shown in the previous table, effective January 1, 2027, the **monthly** sewer charge for a single-family residential customer would increase from \$8.22 currently to \$10.48 per monthly billing period.

The **monthly impact** of these changes on a single-family residential customer is shown below:

Current Sewer Charge	Proposed Sewer Charge	Monthly Increase (\$)
\$ 8.22	\$ 10.48	\$ 2.26

**How do you file a protest or participate in the public hearing?**

The City will consider the new sewer rates at a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 6:30 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, at the San Jacinto Community Center, 625 S. Pico Avenue, San Jacinto, California 92583. At the Public Hearing, the City Council will consider all oral comments and written protests regarding the proposed rates. **Any owner or customer of record of a parcel subject to the proposed rates may submit a written protest against the proposed rate revisions. If written protests are filed by a majority of the affected parcels, the proposed rates will not be adopted. If you do not object to the proposed rate revisions, you do not need to take any action.**

Written protests must include the following: 1) a statement indicating that the identified property owner or customer of record is in opposition to the proposed sewer rate changes; 2) the street address or Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) for the parcel(s) with respect to which the protest is made; and 3) the name and signature of the owner or customer.

Written protests must be mailed, or hand delivered, to the City Clerk at 595 S. San Jacinto Avenue, San Jacinto, California 92583, and received prior to the start of the public hearing on August 4, 2026, or hand delivered to the City Clerk at the Public Hearing on August 4, 2026, before the conclusion of the public comment portion of the Public Hearing. Protests submitted via e-mail or other electronic means will not be accepted. For any written protest, whether mailed or submitted in person to the City Clerk, please identify on the front of the envelope that the enclosed protest is for the Public Hearing on the Proposed Rate Changes – Sewer Rates.

The City Council will consider all written and oral protests related to the proposed rate changes at the Public Hearing. Oral comments at the Public Hearing will not qualify as formal protests unless accompanied by a written protest. Upon the conclusion of the Public Hearing, there will be no more written protests accepted, and no more testimony taken, and the City

Council will consider adoption of the proposed rates described in this notice. If written protests, as outlined above, are not presented by a majority of property owners or customers of record, the City Council will be authorized to adopt the proposed rates. While both property owners and customers of record may submit written protests, only one protest will be counted for each parcel. If adopted, the rates for sewer service will be in effect beginning **January 1, 2027 and increase each January 1, through and including January 1, 2031 as provided above.**

***Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies – Written Legal Objection Procedures***

Pursuant to California Government Code sections 53759.1 and 53759.2, a person or entity will be prohibited from bringing a judicial action or proceeding alleging that the proposed sewer rates do not comply with Proposition 218 unless that person or entity has submitted a written legal objection to the proposed rates. This is known as an Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies requirement **and is separate from the Proposition 218 majority Protest process described above.**

Any person or entity that wishes to challenge the proposed sewer rates must first file a written legal objection that specifies the grounds for alleging the City's noncompliance with the law as described below. Written legal objections must be received by the City **no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, August 3, 2026.**

Information related to the written basis for the proposed sewer rate adjustments can be found on the City's website at [www.sanjacintoca.gov](http://www.sanjacintoca.gov). You have the right to request that the City mail the written basis for the proposed sewer rate adjustments directly to you. To request that the written basis be mailed, please call Water Billing at (951) 487-7330, Option 1.

**Legal objections will only be considered valid if they meet the following procedural and substantive requirements:**

- Legal objections **must be in writing.**
- The City Clerk must receive your written legal objections **no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, August 3, 2026.**
- Written legal objections must be mailed or hand delivered to the City Clerk's office at 595 S. San Jacinto Avenue, California 92583.
- Legal objections must include the following information:
  - Objectors name, parcel number and/or service address, including a return mailing or email address for City responses to your written objection, and signature.
  - A statement that your communication constitutes a legal objection.
  - A description of the grounds for alleging the City's noncompliance with the law, with sufficient specificity to allow the City to determine whether any changes to the proposed sewer rates are required. ***A statement that the proposed sewer rates are too high, or that the proposed sewer rates violate Proposition 218, without an explanation as to the basis of your claim, will be insufficient to constitute a legal objection.***

**A written protest will not constitute a valid legal objection unless it meets the requirements set forth above. Failure to submit a written legal objection prior to 5:00 p.m. on August 3, 2026, or to meet the requirements set forth above, will bar any right to challenge the proposed sewer service rates through a legal proceeding.**

In accordance with Government Code section 53759, there is a 120-day statute of limitations for challenging any new, increased, or extended fee or charge, commencing from the later of the effective date of the new rates or of the date of the final passage, adoption, or approval of the resolution adopting the new rates.