



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION

FROM: BRAD UNDERWOOD, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

PREPARED BY: CATHI ZAMMIT, ENGINEERING MANAGER

MEETING DATE: MAY 11, 2016

SUBJECT: PROPOSED 2016-17 SEWER SERVICE RATE

RECOMMENDATION

That the Public Works Commission recommend to the City Council the adoption of an ordinance approving the base sewer service rate of \$9.05 per hundred (100) cubic feet (CCF) of average winter water consumption.

BACKGROUND

The City Council annually establishes rates and charges necessary to fund sanitary sewer collection system and wastewater treatment plant operating expenses, debt service, and capital improvement expenses, including those needed to reduce sanitary sewer overflows as required under the Cease and Desist Order (CDO) issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

In December 2014, the City submitted a 20-year Integrated Wastewater Master Plan to the Regional Water Quality Control Board in accordance with the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) operation permit requirement. The Master Plan outlines capital improvement needs for both the collection system and the WWTP. Based on that plan the estimated total capital improvement program (CIP) cost over a 20-year period is approximately \$900 million. At the direction of City Council, the Clean Water Program Management Office staff is investigating alternative technology approaches and acceleration of the program to reduce the delivery period to approximately 10 years which may result in program cost savings and the added benefit of creating a recycled water source. The program cost will be updated upon completion of the programmatic environmental impact report and selection of a preferred alternative, anticipated in June 2016.

The City Council renewed the agreement with CH2M in September 2015 to provide professional program management services for the multi-million dollar program. One of the ongoing tasks in CH2M's Scope of Work is to provide financial modeling to determine cash flow projections and revenue requirements to aid the City in financial planning and rate design. The output from the

financial model is used to support the City's decisions regarding financial options, required revenue for the CIP, and to support the City's rate design consultant, Bartle Wells Associates. Bartle Wells Associates uses CH2M's revenue requirement and cash flow information to design different rate models. Based on CH2M's work under the Financial Planning task and Bartle Wells Associates' evaluation, staff recommends a 12% increase to the base rate for fiscal year 2016-17. A 12 percent increase in the base rate will result in a 12 percent increase in all customer classifications including users that receive the minimum charge as shown on Attachment 1.

The recommended rate for residential and standard strength commercial customers for fiscal year 2016-17 is \$9.05 per one hundred cubic feet (CCF) of average winter water use if the rates are increased by 12 percent. This equates to a \$0.97 per CCF increase in the prior year's base rate of \$8.08 per CCF. The classifications, current and proposed rates are summarized in Attachment 1.

Currently a typical single-family residential parcel owner uses approximately 7 CCF of water per month from the November through March period on which sewer bills are calculated. The typical single-family property owner who used 7 CCF of water per month would see a \$6.79 increase in their monthly sewer service charge from \$56.56 to \$63.35 per month in 2016/17. The proposed rate compares favorably with other agencies within San Mateo County as shown in Attachment 2.

The cumulative cost of the collection system and wastewater treatment plant projects and the operations and maintenance annual costs are supported by contributions from the City's sewer partners, sewer service charge revenue, and debt financing through the sale of sewer revenue bonds and state revolving loan funds. Sewer partner contributions are mainly related to wastewater treatment plant capital projects and their respective share of operation costs. Partner payments for operation costs are based on flows and vary from year to year based on actual expenditures.

SEWER OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS: There are five operating programs supported by sewer funding. These programs include Wastewater Treatment, Environmental Compliance, Dale Avenue Pump Station, Sewer System Engineering Services and Sewer Maintenance.

The Wastewater Treatment program is for the operations and maintenance of the WWTP. The plant protects the public health and water environment of the community by providing high quality wastewater treatment services in compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The Environmental Compliance program involves inspecting commercial and industrial facilities as well as providing information to customers to help prevent discharge of wastes into the sanitary sewer which may cause harm to the WWTP or collection system. The Dale Avenue Pump Station program covers the operation of the pump station. The Sewer System Engineering Services program provides the planning, engineering, design, construction management, and inspection services for all sewer fund Capital Improvement Projects and maintains the asset management system. It also includes the Citywide Private Sewer Lateral subprogram and new subprogram for the Clean Water Program. Finally, the Sewer Maintenance program provides the cleaning and maintenance of 257 miles of sewer lines and 25 sanitary pump stations. Response to sewer emergencies is an important function within this program.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: The sewer fund budget includes a schedule of capital improvement projects in the amount of \$75.5 million for the upcoming fiscal year of 2016-17. Projects fall into two main areas: collection system improvements and WWTP improvements.

Collection System Improvements – This area of work involves annual rehabilitation, capacity, inflow and infiltration reduction, and reliability projects for the sanitary sewer collection system. Annual rehabilitation projects are those needed to keep the collection system in a state of good repair including spot repair, line replacement, closed-circuit television inspection, root foaming, manhole inspection and rehabilitation, rehabilitation and upgrades for pump stations other than Dale Avenue, and any emergency call out work. Work includes upsizing existing main trunk lines, constructing relief sewer lines and pump station upgrades, and potential in-system storage facilities, to increase capacity and reliability. These projects are identified in the 2014 Integrated Wastewater Management Plan. The Clean Water Program is considering two potential program alternatives: The In-System Storage Program, which would include construction of one or more underground storage basins upstream of the Dale Avenue Pump Station to detain wastewater flows during peak wet weather events, and The Full Conveyance Program, which would include a new pump station next to the existing Dale Avenue Pump Station and larger pipelines to deliver peak wet weather flows to the wastewater treatment plant. Both program alternatives include needed upgrades at the wastewater treatment plant. Sanitary sewer capacity increasing projects are all wet weather related projects necessary to prevent sanitary sewer overflows and are mandated by the Cease and Desist Order (“CDO”) No. R2-2009-0015 issued by the RWQCB on March 11, 2009. During fiscal year 2016-17 estimated collection system improvement capital expenditures are \$31.6 million.

Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Improvements – WWTP improvements include capital improvement and rehabilitation projects needed to keep the WWTP functioning and in a state of good repair, manage peak wet weather flows, and provide increased capacity for secondary treatment as necessary to meet regulatory requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) operating permit. Over the next fiscal year programmed expenditures for WWTP projects are approximately \$33.1 million, and program management costs are approximately \$10.8 million.

CONFORMANCE WITH PROP 218: Proposition 218 requires the City to mail a written notice of the proposed sewer rate increases to affected property owners at least 45 days prior to the scheduled public hearing. This year the notice was mailed on April 26, 2016. A copy of the notice is shown in Attachment 3. The mailing also included a newsletter with information about the Clean Water Program improvements funded by sewer rates and the regulatory issues the City is addressing, also included in Attachment 3.

Each property owner has the right to submit a written protest against the proposed rate. The property owner may mail their protest or submit the written protest in person to the City Clerk no later than the conclusion of the public testimony portion of the public hearing, proposed for June 20, 2016. At the public hearing, pursuant to Proposition 218, Council will consider all protests against the proposed rates. If a majority of parcel owners present written protests against the proposed rates, the City cannot impose the proposed change in the sewer service rate.

BUDGET IMPACT

Sewer service charges are the major source of revenue for the sewer enterprise fund. The City's sewer service charges are based on winter water consumption, and hence are impacted by changes in water use. Winter water use is commonly used to estimate wastewater discharge since there is minimal outdoor irrigation during those months (November through March).

In recent years, water conservation has resulted in a downward trend in water consumption which has adversely impacted the total revenues received from rate increases. Indeed, preliminary data provided by Cal Water indicates that water consumption has declined significantly this winter compared to the prior year, in part due to State-mandated conservation. Hence, revenue gains from the proposed increase in sewer rates will be partially offset by the decline in water consumption. For example, a 12 percent sewer rate increase coupled with an estimated 6% decline in overall billed usage would result in approximately a net 5.3 percent increase in sewer service charge revenues.

Should this trend continue, the sewer service rates will need to be re-evaluated to ensure that projected revenue requirements are met. Any such evaluation would look at adjustments to the rate structure, multi-year plans, as well as the City's ability to obtain low interest financing for capital improvements. The City anticipates pursuing low-rate loans from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Financing Program for a large share of its upcoming capital program financing needs.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

Adoption of a base sewer rate is not a CEQA Project per Public Resources Code Section 21065 and Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), because the proposed rate increase is a funding mechanism only and will not have an impact upon the environment.

NOTICE PROVIDED:

The Proposition 218 mailed notification was sent on April 26, 2016, 55 days prior to the schedule of the public hearing date of June 20, 2016.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 - Existing and Proposed Rates by User Class
- Attachment 2 - Sewer Service Charge Survey – Residential Monthly Sewer Rates FY2016-17
- Attachment 3 – Proposition 218 Hearing Notice and Newsletter

STAFF CONTACT

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650-522-7306

Attachment 1

Current & Proposed Sewer Service Charges		
	Current Rates	Proposed Rates
Fiscal Year	2015/16	2016/17
RESIDENTIAL		
<i>Rate per hundred cubic feet (\$/ccf) of annualized average monthly winter water use.</i>		
Class A Residential	\$8.08	\$9.05
COMMERCIAL		
<i>Rate per hundred cubic feet (\$/ccf) of annualized average monthly winter water use.</i>		
Class B Standard Strength	\$8.08	\$9.05
Class C Moderate Strength	11.95	13.38
Class D High Strength	18.10	20.27
Class E <i>A limited number of accounts are billed on a case-by-case basis based on sewer rates in effect.</i>		
MINIMUM MONTHLY CHARGE	\$20.20	\$22.62
<i>All residential and commercial bills are subject to the minimum monthly charge.</i>		

Class B includes professional offices, retail stores, and other standard strength commercial accounts.

Class C includes hotels & motels with food preparation facilities, industrial laundries, supermarkets with food preparation facilities, and other moderate strength accounts.

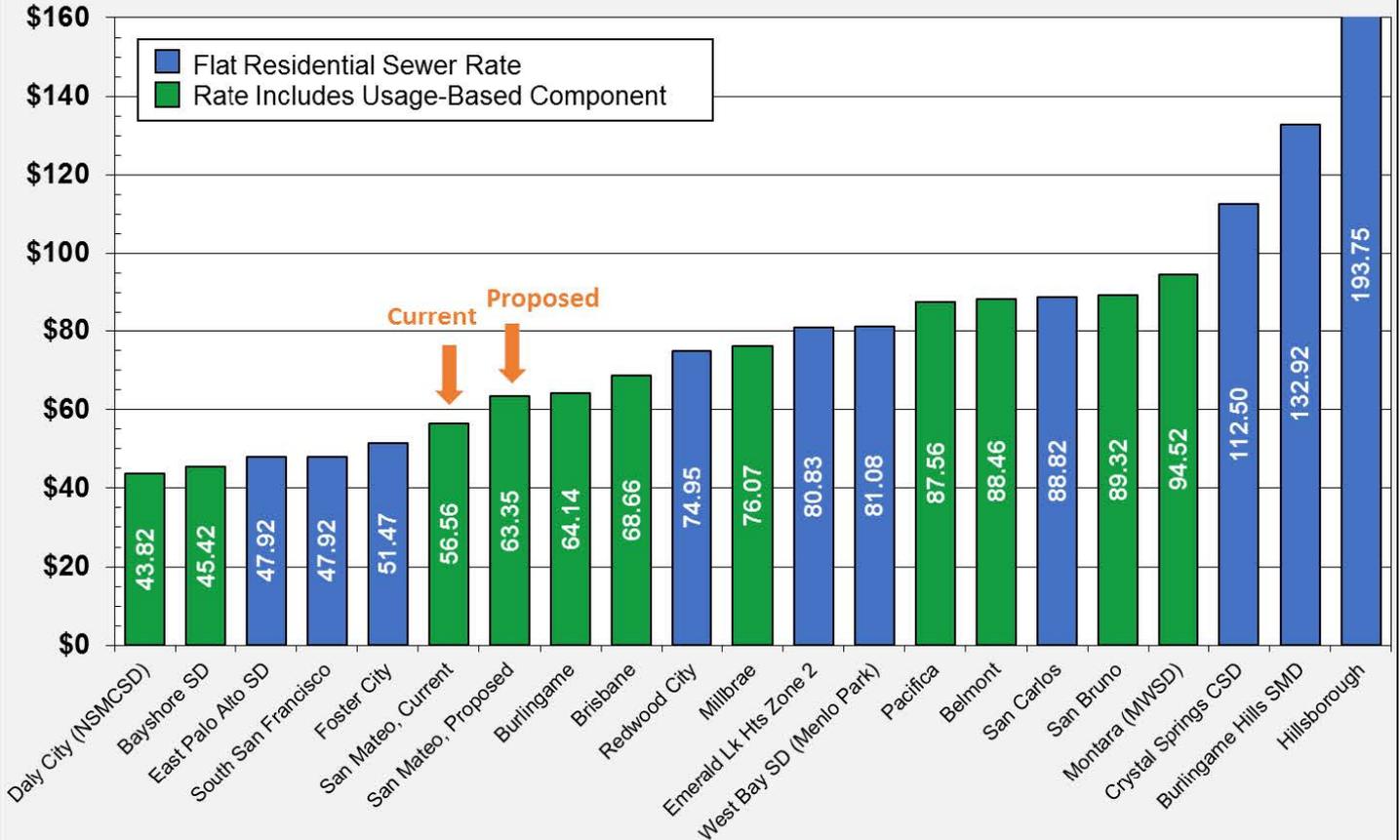
Class D includes restaurants, wholesale bakeries, mortuaries, and other high strength accounts.

Average monthly winter water use is based on the average of metered water use from the prior March through November, excluding months with no billable usage.

The City determines the appropriate sewer rate class for each customer.

Attachment 2

Single Family Residential Monthly Sewer Rate Survey Based on flat rate or 7 hcf of monthly winter water use



Note: Many other agencies are also planning sewer rate increases in 2016/17.

Rates Effective January 2016

How to Calculate Your Sewer Service Charge

Your sewer service charge for the fiscal year is based on water consumption for the five preceding winter months (November through March). Your charge can be determined by multiplying the proposed rate for your customer class, by your average winter water usage, as illustrated in the following example:

Sewer Charge = Avg. Monthly Water Use X Rate X 12 Months

<i>EXAMPLE</i>	Nov 2015	Dec 2015	Jan 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2016	Total
Water Consumption in CCFs*	9	7	6	6	7	35

* 1 CCF = 100 cubic feet, or about 750 gallons

For residential parcels, using the example above:

1. Calculate your average monthly water usage:
 $35 \text{ CCF} \div 5 \text{ months} = 7 \text{ CCF}$ average use per month.
2. Calculate the monthly fee by multiplying the average monthly water usage by the Class A rate: $7 \text{ CCF} \times \$9.05 = \63.35 (for commercial parcels, look up rate for your customer class, which reflects the costs of treating different types of wastewater).
3. The annual sewer service charge is calculated by multiplying the monthly fee by 12 months: $\$63.35 \times 12 = \760.20 .

Note: The proposed minimum charge equates to \$22.62 per month. This minimum charge will apply if there is any water use during the fiscal year.

Need More Information: California Water Company customers may view their consumption history online at <https://secure6.i-doxs.net/CalWater/>. Customers of other water providers should refer to their water bills to determine consumption, or contact the provider.



CITY OF SAN MATEO
CITY CLERK
330 WEST 20TH AVENUE
SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA 94403-1388

NOTICE OF PROPOSED SEWER RATE INCREASES

PUBLIC HEARING



DATE: JUNE 20, 2016
at 7:00 p.m.

**SAN MATEO CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
330 W. 20TH AVENUE
SAN MATEO, CA 94403**

Notice of Public Hearing

The City of San Mateo, in compliance with Article XIID of the California State Constitution and the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act, is hereby notifying all affected property owners of the following.

- The City is proposing to increase the current “Base Sewer Rate”, which is charged to Class A residential and Class B commercial customers, from \$8.08/CCF to \$9.05/CCF for FY 2016-17. “CCF” means “hundred cubic feet”, which is about 750 gallons. For a typical single family residential property with an average monthly water usage of 7 CCF, the charge will increase from \$56.56 to \$63.35 per month in FY 2016-17. For other rate classifications please see the chart of proposed sewer rates.
- An increase in the minimum annual sewer charge also is proposed. The proposed minimum charge will equate to \$22.62 per month in 2016-17, and will remain among the lowest in the region.
- On June 20, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., the San Mateo City Council will hold a Public Hearing to accept public comment and testimony on the proposed sewer service rate increase.

Why Rate Adjustments Are Needed

Based on a detailed evaluation of revenue requirements the City is proposing a 12 percent base sewer rate increase for FY 2016-17. The proposed increase will generate the minimum amount needed to fund the City’s operating cost of providing wastewater service and ensure the City continues its progress in funding the capital requirements and maintains and upgrades its aging wastewater system infrastructure. Specifically, the proposed rate adjustments will enable the City to:

- Fund capital investments and debt service for high-priority capital needs in Fiscal Year 2016-17. These high-priority capital projects include improvements to the Sewer Collection System and the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), including annual sewer rehabilitation, capacity and reliability improvements and projects at the WWTP to ensure responsive and functional facilities.
- Respond to increased regulatory requirements and issues associated with sanitary sewer overflow prevention, including construction of relief sewer lines and facilities necessary to prevent overflows during significant rain events as well as increased

cleaning, inspection and rehabilitation of the existing collection system.

- Pay for the increases in annual operating and maintenance expense required to meet the City’s regulatory permit requirements, fund increasing annual debt service requirements, and keep revenues aligned with the costs of providing wastewater service.

Comments and Written Protests

Any affected property owner may submit a written protest to the proposed increases to the sewer rates; provided, however, only one protest will be counted per parcel. Each protest must (1) be in writing; (2) state that the identified property owner opposes the proposed increases to the sewer rates; (3) identify the parcel for which the protest is made (by assessor’s parcel number or street address); and (4) include the signature of the property owner. Protests submitted by e-mail, facsimile or other electronic means will not be counted. Written protests may be submitted by mail to the City Clerk at 330 W. 20th Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94403 or at the public hearing, so long as the protests are received before the public hearing ends. Please identify on the envelope for any written protest, whether mailed or submitted in person to the City Clerk, that the enclosed written protest is for the Public Hearing on the Proposed Sewer Rates Increases.

During the public hearing, the City Council will hear all public testimony and consider all written protests. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the City Council will decide whether to adopt the proposed sewer rates. Oral comments at the public hearing will not qualify as formal protests unless accompanied by a written protest, but the City welcomes your input. If, at the end of the public hearing, written protests against the proposed increases to the sewer rates are not presented by a majority of affected property owners of the identified parcels upon which they are proposed to be imposed, the City Council will be authorized to adopt the rates.

City of San Mateo
Proposed Sewer Rates Effective July 20, 2016

Residential		
Class	Current Base Rate	Proposed Base Rate, FY 2016/17
Class A Standard (base rate)	\$8.08 / CCF	\$9.05 / CCF
Minimum Charge	\$20.20 / month	\$22.62 / month

Commercial		
Class	Current Rate	Proposed Rate, FY 2016/17
Class B	\$8.08 / CCF	\$9.05 / CCF
Class C	\$11.95 / CCF	\$13.39 / CCF
Class D	\$18.10 / CCF	\$20.27 / CCF
Class E	Case by Case Basis	
Minimum Charge	\$20.20 / month	\$22.62 / month

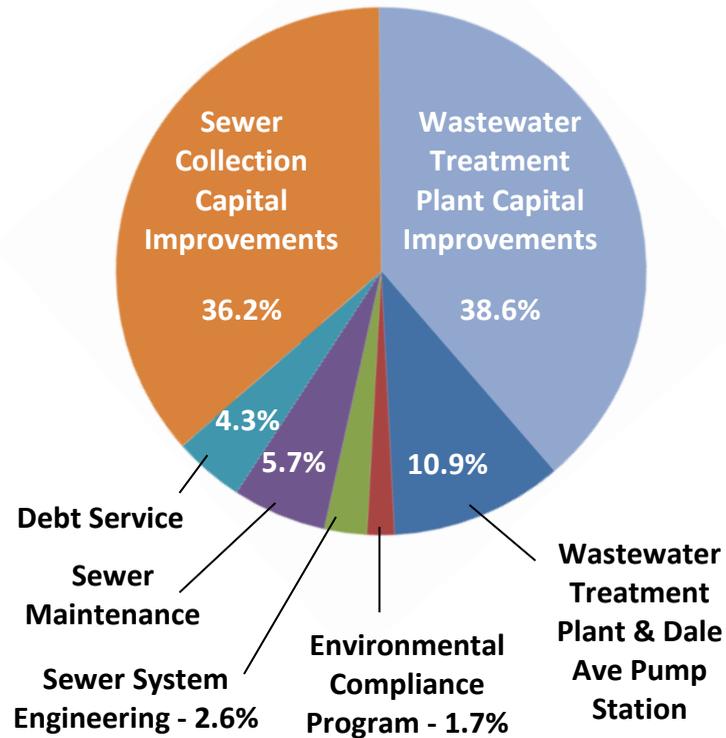
The City’s proposed sewer rates compare favorably with neighboring cities in San Mateo County. Current charges for a typical single family that used 7 CCF per month in other cities range from \$45.83/month to \$181.08/month, with a median of approximately \$78 per month. San Mateo’s sewer charge for similar usage is currently \$56.56, roughly 28% below the regional median. With the proposed rate increase, the sewer bill for 7 CCF of use would be \$63.35/month in FY 2016-17 and will remain low compared to other County agencies.

Please note that the sewer charge is billed annually on the property tax bill.

Need More Information? Please call (650) 522-7367.

**CITY OF SAN MATEO
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**Sewer Fund Report
How sewer fees are used...**



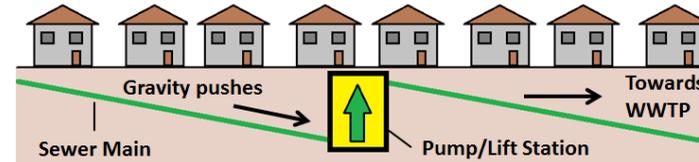
Information above from Draft Proposed FY 2016/17 budget

SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM

San Mateo’s sewer collection system includes about 234 miles of sanitary sewer pipelines, 5,555 sewer manholes, and 26 pump/“lift” stations. When used water (“wastewater”) leaves your home, it travels downhill by gravity through a private sewer lateral to large diameter sewer lines called sewer mains or trunks.

SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM (CONTINUED)

Since a large portion of San Mateo has relatively flat terrain, sewer mains and trunks are slanted downhill underground toward the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Once wastewater reaches the end of a sewer line, lift stations raise the wastewater to a higher elevation (still underground) so gravity can continue to push wastewater down other sewer mains towards the WWTP.



Sewer pipes have an average lifespan of about 50 to 60 years. Most of San Mateo’s sewer pipes were constructed between 1900 and 1960, meaning the majority of sewer pipes in San Mateo are reaching the end of their useful life, requiring costly rehabilitation and replacement.

SANITARY SEWER ENGINEERING

Sewer Engineering is responsible for assessing the condition of sewer pipes and creating annual rehabilitation projects. Engineering is also responsible for large capital improvement projects that improve system capacity and reliability and reduce rainwater entering and overwhelming the sewer system. Annual programs include:

- **Annual Closed-Circuit TV Program** – Pipe condition assessment of 20% of sewer mains each year
- **Annual Collection System Rehabilitation** – Repair and rehabilitation of broken sewer mains identified in previous year’s CCTV project
- **Sewer Pump Station Rehabilitation** – Annual upgrades to 26 pump stations for continued reliability

PRIVATE SEWER LATERAL COST SHARING PROGRAM

The smallest sewer lines which run from properties to the sewer main lines (“private sewer laterals”) are owned and maintained by property owners. To learn more about the City’s Private Sewer Lateral Cost Sharing Program, go to: www.cityofsanmateo.org/PrivateSewerLaterals

SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOWS

“Infiltration and Inflow” is a problem that occurs when groundwater and rainwater enter the sewer collection system through cracks in pipes, leaky joints, openings in manhole covers, and illegal connections of storm lines into the sewer system. Once rainwater or groundwater comes in contact with wastewater in sewers, it becomes wastewater itself and must be treated at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

Rainwater entering the sewer system can overwhelm sewer pipes and cause **sanitary sewer overflows**, meaning untreated sewage is released into our environment and can enter waterways. Overflows of sewage create public health and safety concerns. Further, **each overflow is a violation of California law and federal Clean Water Act.**



San Mateo has a severe problem with rainwater-induced sewage spills. Between 2005 and 2008, roughly 3 million gallons of untreated wastewater reached San Mateo waterways (creeks and channels, the Marina Lagoon, and the Bay). In March 2009, the State Water Board issued a **Cease and Desist Order (CDO)** as well as **Administrative Civil Liability** fines because of San Mateo’s non-compliance with the Clean Water Act.



Compliance with the CDO is maintained through adherence to timelines for capital project implementation as well as development and implementation of increasingly proactive operations and maintenance programs. The overall goal of sewer maintenance, source control, and engineering is to continually improve the condition of the sewer collection system and reduce the number and impact of sewage spills.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

The wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) processes incoming wastewater 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. During summer, the WWTP treats an average of 12 million gallons per day (mgd) of wastewater. During rain events, the WWTP can receive a peak flow of up to 8 times greater than expected during dry weather! The capacity of the WWTP is limited by the size of the outfall pipe out of the WWTP, which is approximately 60 million gallons per day.

The largest sewage lift station in San Mateo is the Dale Avenue Lift/Pumping Station. Seven large pumps send the majority of flow generated in San Mateo west of the Marina Lagoon to the WWTP.



WASTEWATER SOURCE CONTROL



The City of San Mateo Public Works Department has a restaurant grease-trap inspection program to limit the amount of fats, oil, and grease ("FOG" - such as meat fats, cooking oils, sauces, butter, etc.) entering the

sanitary sewers. When these items are poured down drains, they solidify and stick to sewer pipes restricting the flow of wastewater and causing backups.

Further, Source Control enforces violations of other toxic substances entering sewers or storm drains such as paint and construction materials which negatively impact the environment.



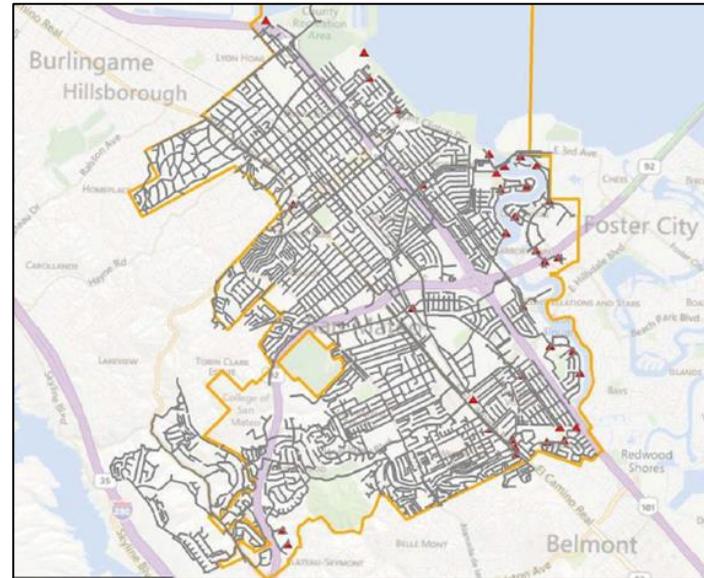
www.cityofsanmateo.org

The City of San Mateo website is a valuable resource for more information on the City's sewer system and wastewater treatment.

SANITARY SEWER MAINTENANCE

The Sewer Operations and Maintenance team has established a comprehensive preventative maintenance program that includes repetitive cleaning of problematic areas and thorough citywide district cleanings aimed at keeping sewer mains free of blockages and preventing sanitary sewer overflows.

Sewer Maintenance crews clean roughly 200 miles of sewer pipe a year.



The City of San Mateo Department of Public Works is responsible for operating and maintaining, engineering, constructing and rehabilitating the City's sewer system infrastructure while meeting all permit requirements, complying with environmental programs and providing a high level of service for both present and future customers.

¿Preguntas? Para información en español, haga el favor de llamar al (650) 522-7300.

有任何問題嗎? 如需索取更進一步的中文資訊, 請致電650.522.7300

CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

The Clean Water Program is a comprehensive plan to upgrade the aging sewer collection and wastewater treatment system with advanced infrastructure that will provide reliable services for years to come. **The goals of the Clean Water Program are to:**

1. Replace aging infrastructure & facilities,
2. Build wet weather sewer system capacity assurance,
3. Meet current and future regulatory requirements,
4. Align with City sustainability goals.



The proposed technology approaches at the WWTP will not only meet current treatment regulations but will prepare the WWTP to meet anticipated future increased regulations and treat wastewater to a quality level which can be used as a recycled water source. Infrastructure is currently being built to convert BioGas, produced by the plant's digesters, to clean natural gas. It can be used to fuel Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles, provide clean energy for plant operations, and create a lower carbon footprint for our community.



The Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) was drafted and is scheduled to be brought to the City Council in June 2016 for certification. The PEIR describes in detail the improvements and anticipated impacts that could occur from implementing this program, and is available on the Clean Water Program website, www.cleanwaterprogramsanmateo.org.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Clean Water Program?

The Clean Water Program is a comprehensive plan to upgrade San Mateo's wastewater collection system and the San Mateo Wastewater Treatment Plant. The wastewater treatment plant is owned by the Cities of San Mateo and Foster City/Estero Municipal Improvement District "EMID". The Wastewater Treatment Plant also treats wastewater for Crystal Springs County Sanitation District, a portion of unincorporated San Mateo County, and the southern portion of the Town of Hillsborough. Those services are paid for by partner agency reimbursements.

What is a wastewater treatment plant?

How does it work?

A wastewater treatment plant consists of a series of physical and biological processes that treat residential, commercial, and industrial wastewater so that it is suitable for reuse, or safe discharge into the Bay. After treatment, the water discharged from the wastewater treatment plant is often referred to as "effluent".

What are the goals for the Clean Water Program?

The goals of the Clean Water Program are:

1. **To replace the aging infrastructure and facilities.** Sewer pipes have an average lifespan of 50-60 years, and most of San Mateo's sewer pipes were constructed between 1900 and 1960. The wastewater treatment plant has many components that are over 75 years old, and nearly half of the system is reaching the end of its useful life. Although it has been upgraded over the years, improvements to accommodate current and future operating requirements are needed.



2. **To meet current and future regulatory requirements and build wet weather sewer system capacity assurance.** The regulatory environment that protects our community continues to change. We are responding to the current direction of our regulators (ie, Regional Water Quality Control Board "RWQCB") requiring specific corrective actions to ensure wet weather capacity, while planning for future regulations related to the quality of our effluent water.



3. **To align with long-term sustainability goals.** Improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and sewer collection system have added environmental benefits, including a cleaner San Francisco Bay, production of new recycled water source to supplement precious water supplies, and alternative fuel sources for City vehicles.

What happens if we do not comply with regulatory requirements?

Failure to comply with permit requirements by mandated deadlines could result in large fines that will be passed on to ratepayers.

How are the Clean Water Program projects funded?

The Program is funded by sewer use fees paid by all properties that tie into the sewer collection system. The City is seeking grants and low-interest loans to minimize impacts on sewer rates.

What is the City's strategy to engage and educate the public about this program?

Public outreach and transparency are important components of the Clean Water Program. The City of San Mateo and Foster City/EMID will be looking at a variety of public outreach methods including providing information on the Clean Water Program website (www.CleanWaterProgramSanMateo.org) and the distribution of information through other communication channels.



Questions or More Information?

Contact Clean Water Program staff at (650) 727-6870 or info@cleanwaterprogramsanmateo.org

PROTECTING THE BAY FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

WASTEWATER SYSTEM AT A GLANCE

