

Proposed Five-Year Increase to Sewer Service Charges



Watch Our Video!

Understanding Your Sewer Service

Learn about sewer service charges and planned improvements.



Informational Workshop for the Public

April 10, 2024, 5:30pm - 7:00pm

Zoom.us/join, Meeting ID: #488-254-2320

Call 1(669) 900-6833, enter Meeting ID: #488-254-2320



Public Hearing

May 21, 2024, 5:00pm

Zoom.us/join, Meeting ID: #488-254-2320

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FAQs - SEWER SERVICE CHARGES EXPLAINED



Oro Loma Sanitary District (District) is proposing to phase in a series of annual sewer service charge increases over the next five years, with the first increase scheduled to become effective July 1, 2024. Sewer service charge increases are needed to support sewer system operating expenses, provide adequate funding for maintenance of facilities and equipment, meet annual debt service funding requirements, and help ensure continued compliance with regulatory requirements. The proposed increase will enable upgrades and repairs to the treatment plant and accelerate the pace of repairing and replacing its 271 miles of underground pipes, many of which are over 70 years old.

The District's sewer utility is a self-supporting enterprise that relies primarily on sewer service charge revenues to meet annual funding needs. As such, sewer service charges need to be set at levels adequate to fund the cost of providing sewer service. The proposed rates are based on a wastewater rate study, developed by an independent utility rate consultant which is available on the District's website at OroLoma.org/sewer-service-charges.

What service is provided for the sewer service charges?

- ✓ Transport of the sewage from your property to the treatment facility.
- ✓ Treatment of the sewage to protect public health and the environment in the San Francisco Bay.
- ✓ Repair and replacement of worn-out sewer pipes and treatment facilities to provide reliable service and long-term value.

How much are current sewer service charges?

For single-family residential customers, the sewer service charges appear on your property tax bill and are currently \$368 per year.

How is the sewer service charge increase calculated?

In 2023, Oro Loma performed a fiscal analysis and projection of costs for the next five years. Identified areas in need of support are regulatory compliance, operating and maintenance expenses, and annual debt services.

HOW DO I PROVIDE FEEDBACK? HOW CAN I PROTEST?

The Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing on May 21, 2024 to consider the proposed sewer service charge increase. Any property owner or tenant may submit a written protest for the proposed increase. Protests must be submitted in writing (by mail or hand delivery) by the end of the public hearing on May 21, 2024. A protest must identify the property or properties for which the protest is entered, include the name and signature of the property owner or tenant submitting the protest, and indicate opposition to the proposed increase. At the close of the public hearing, any written protests will be tallied by the District Secretary. If protests against the proposed increase in sewer service charges are presented by a majority of owners of the affected parcels, the District cannot approve the proposed increase. If a majority protest is not received, the Board of Directors may approve the proposed increase. Any protest submitted via email, fax, or other electronic means will not be accepted.

Attend a public hearing:

May 21, 2024, 5:00pm

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Call us at:

(510) 276-4700

Additional Information

Pursuant to California Government Code 53759, there is a 120-day statute of limitations for challenging any new, increased, or extended fees, including water or wastewater service charges adopted, modified, or amended after January 1, 2022.

Write or hand deliver to us at:

Oro Loma Sanitary District

2655 Grant Avenue, San Lorenzo, CA 94580

Attn: Sewer Service Charges

In order to be counted, the protests must be submitted in writing. Oral comments at the public hearing will not qualify as formal protests, unless accompanied by a written protest.

Our Mission is to Provide Reliable Services for Decades to Come.

Because there is an increasingly urgent need to replace the infrastructure and equipment we use, the District will be raising rates in the near future.

SERVING OUR DISTRICT 24/7/365



Environmental Stewardship

In treating **12 million gallons of wastewater each day**, Oro Loma has an exemplary regulatory compliance record in meeting federal, state, and local regulatory requirements and protecting the San Francisco Bay. Additionally, much of our power is generated using renewable energy.



Infrastructure Investment

Continued capital investment in the wastewater treatment plant: **271 combined miles of sewer pipes and force mains, and 12 pump stations**. These are critical to moving and cleaning wastewater and maintaining effective, reliable, and high-quality customer service.



Interior of Sewer Pipe: Typical Defect



Fiscal Responsibility

Oro Loma is committed to **maintaining responsible rates** by prioritizing capital investments, managing budgets through operational efficiencies, and targeting available grant and low-interest loan programs.

PLANNED SEWER AND TREATMENT PLANT PROJECTS



Construct a
NEW DIGESTER
to replace existing units
BUILT IN 1948 (\$13.1M)



Perform repairs to
PIPES AND PUMP STATIONS
(\$10M)



Replace
40 MILES
of old sewer pipes
BY 2029 (\$60M)

These projects will ensure that Oro Loma continues its award-winning operation and is able to provide reliable service in the decades ahead

SEWER SERVICE CHARGES

Oro Loma proposes to increase the current **residential sewer service charges** for five years effective July 1, 2024 and every July 1 as follows:

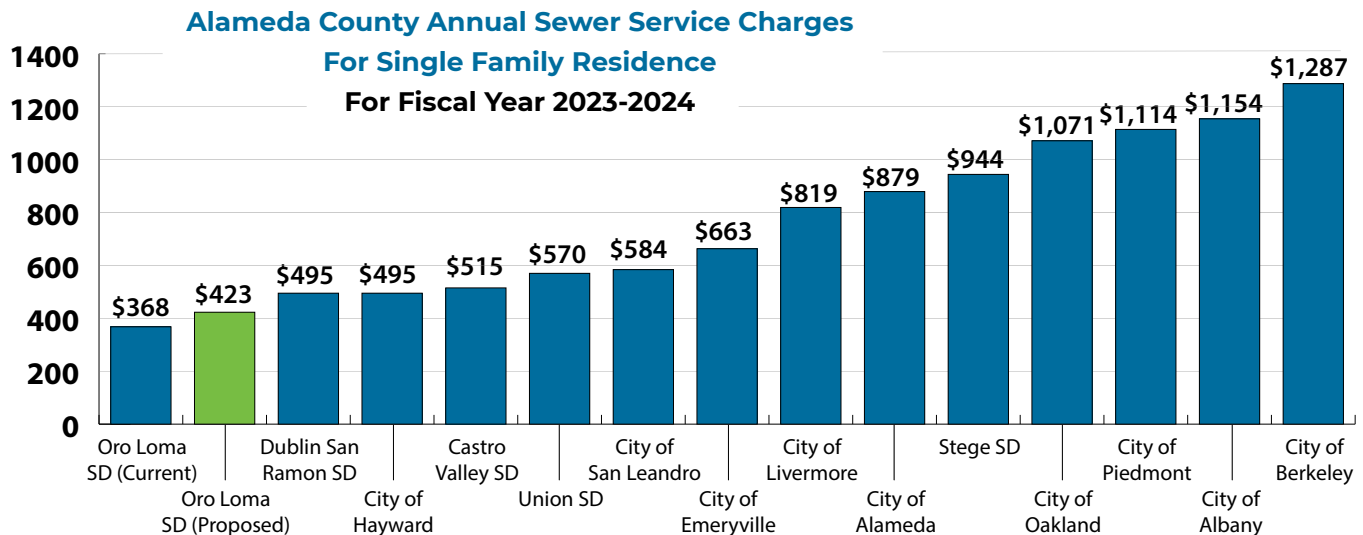
Effective Date / Type of Residential Property	Single Family Dwellings	Apartments (per unit)	House Trailers /Mobile Homes
July 1, 2024	\$423.12/year	\$423.12/year	\$343.88/year
July 1, 2025	\$486.59/year	\$486.59/year	\$395.46/year
July 1, 2026	\$559.58/year	\$559.58/year	\$454.78/year
July 1, 2027	\$643.52/year	\$643.52/year	\$523.00/year
July 1, 2028	\$740.05/year	\$740.05/year	\$601.45/year

For a single-family residence, the sewer service charge will be \$740.05 per year at the end of five years if approved.

Non-residential sewer service charges are calculated based on the amount of water used by the customer. Oro Loma proposes to increase the current non-residential sewer service charges for five years effective July 1, 2024 and every July 1 as follows:

Effective Date	Commercial / Industrial (excludes SIUs*) (per hundred cubic feet)	Schools (per hundred cubic feet)
July 1, 2024	\$6.25	\$4.59
July 1, 2025	\$7.19	\$5.28
July 1, 2026	\$8.27	\$6.07
July 1, 2027	\$9.51	\$6.98
July 1, 2028	\$10.94	\$8.03

* SIUs = Significant Industrial Users



The District's proposed sewer service charges will be 44% below the average in Alameda County.

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Oro Loma Sanitary District provides wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal services to 45,000 residents and businesses in San Lorenzo, Ashland, Cherryland, Fairview, and portions of the City of San Leandro, City of Hayward, and Castro Valley. The District continually looks for opportunities to lower costs while improving service to customers.

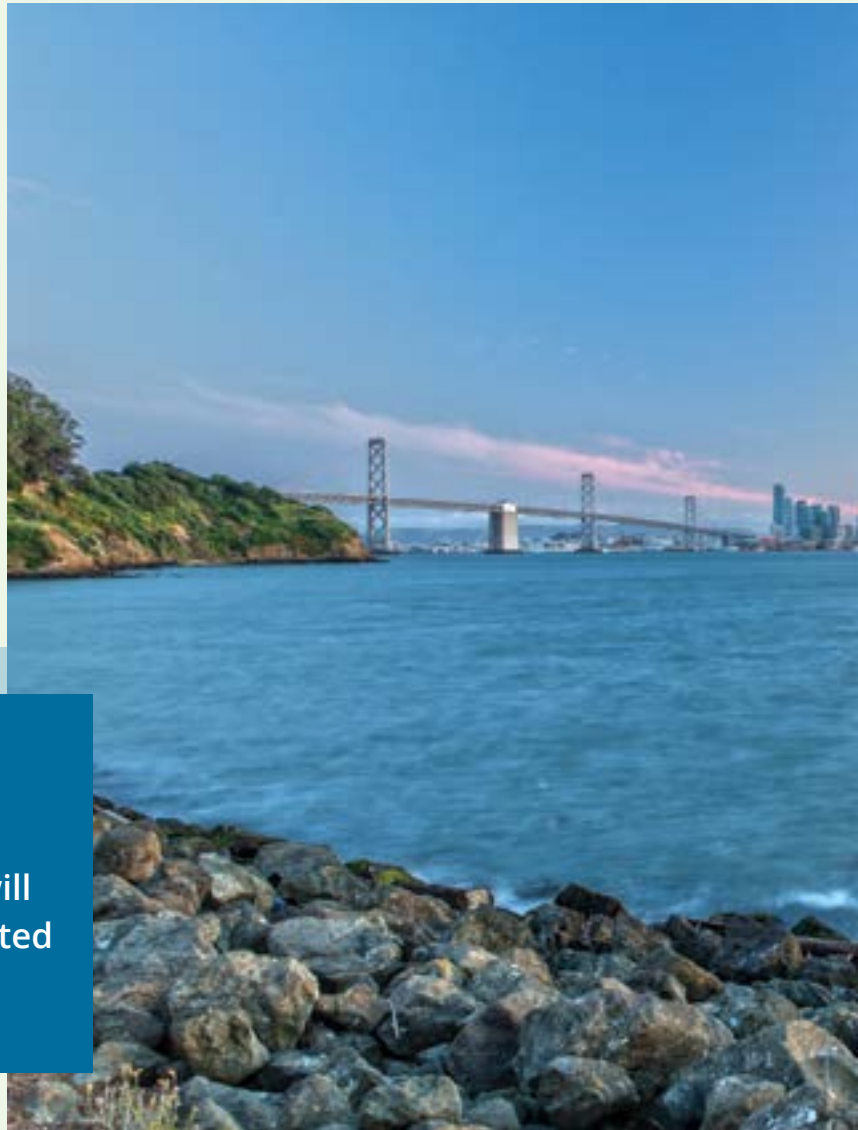
Oro Loma Sanitary District provides the lowest rates in Alameda County and one of the lowest in the State of California. The District, working in concert with the communities it serves, strives to be a hero for the San Francisco Bay.

We provide our customers exceptional service at reasonable rates. A single-family residential customer in Oro Loma currently pays about \$1 per day for unlimited use of the sewer system – showers, laundry, dishes, toilet flushes.

Over the years, the sewer service charges have not kept up with the rising costs and the increasingly urgent need to replace the District's aging infrastructure. A rate increase is needed to remedy this situation.

IMPORTANT FACT:

Single-family residential customers in the District will pay \$1.16 per day for unlimited use of the sewer system.



To watch an informational video or view this notice in multiple languages online, visit OroLoma.org/sewer-service-charges.

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Oro Loma Sanitary District
2655 Grant Avenue, San Lorenzo, CA 94580

Oro Loma Sanitary District proposes to increase its sewer service charges to reflect changes in the estimated cost to collect, transport and treat wastewater from all users within the District's service area.

Watch the video on our website at OroLoma.org/sewer-service-charges to get the details about what the charges will cover and why they are needed.



Proposed Five-Year Increase Public Hearing
May 21, 2024

Planned Sewer Projects are Outlined Inside.

