

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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John Doe 12345 Any Street Any Town, CA 000000

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, March 22, 2023 • 6 p.m. 10844 Ellis Avenue, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

We protect public health and the environment by:

- Helping to ensure our beaches are safe.
- Supplying 130 million gallons per day of treated water for recycling.
- Recycling 800 tons per day of solids from wastewater and creating soil amendment and compost.
- Producing over 60 percent of electricity to power our treatment facilities.
- Maintaining over \$11 billion in infrastructure
 — guaranteeing reliability of our pipelines
 and treatment systems reducing the risk of sewer spills and beach closures.

All while being fiscally responsible and keeping your rates below the industry average.

To learn more about OC San visit: www.ocsan.gov.



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

How do I Protest the Proposed Fees?

A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 22 at 6 p.m. in the OC San Board Room, 10844 Ellis Avenue, Fountain Valley, California. Any property owner within the sewer service area may protest the proposed fee at the public hearing or may file a written protest by sending a letter to OC San, 10844 Ellis Avenue, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 or an email to rates@ocsan.gov. A valid protest letter or email must include your name, the parcel number at which you receive sewer service from OC San and a statement of protest. The letter or email must be received prior to or during the public hearing on March 22, 2023.

I already pay a sewer fee on another bill. Is this a duplicate sewer charge?

A separate sewer fee may be collected for the operation and maintenance of your local sewer system, which may be owned by your city, water district or sanitary district. That system collects the sewage from your parcel, conveys it through the sewers in your local streets, and ultimately transfers it to the large regional trunk sewers and treatment plants that make up the OC San regional system. OC San does not receive any monies collected by these other local sewer agencies.

Am I eligible for a rebate/refund?

<u>Non-residential</u> users that have substantially lower than average water use are eligible for a reduced charge. If you think you qualify, please visit our website, www.ocsan.gov, to obtain claim forms for a rebate or refund. As the single-family residential rate is a flat rate and is the lowest rate that any user can pay for our services, residential users are not eligible for a rebate.

What if I am not connected to the sewer system?

The OC San sewer service fee ordinance applies to parcels that are connected to the sewer system. Parcels that are on a septic system are exempt from the OC San sewer service fee. While we have attempted to identify all parcels that utilize a septic system, it is possible that we may have missed some. If this is your situation, please visit our website, www.ocsan.gov, to obtain a septic tank form for a refund.



You have received this notice because the Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) provides regional sewer service to your property. OC San collects and treats wastewater from 20 cities, four special districts and a portion of the unincorporated County of Orange. A map of OC San's sewer service area can be viewed at www.ocsan.gov.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

MARCH 22, 2023 AT 6 P.M.
ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT
10844 ELLIS AVENUE, FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CA
REGARDING PROPOSED SEWER SERVICE
FEES TO THE OWNER OF RECORD OF

APN######

OC San is proposing a rate increase in order to pay projected costs of inspection, repair, operation, maintenance, debt service and reserves needed for OC San's regional collection and treatment system. As a property owner within OC San's service area, your regional sewer service fees along with property tax revenues and other sources of income, will pay for these services.

Due to our efficient operations and size, OC San sewer service fees remain among the lowest in California and in the United States for wastewater treatment facilities. At the end of the proposed rate program in 2028, OC San's rates are expected to remain below the projected statewide average.

You are currently paying your share of the current costs of operating the sewerage system through your annual service fee of \$XXX per year.

The cost of the regional sewerage system is apportioned to each property owner based on the amount and strength of the average wastewater discharged from that type of parcel use. Parcels are categorized by use on the Orange County Assessor's database. Although the OC San sewer service fee is not a tax, it is collected as a separate line item on the property tax bill. Using the services of the County Tax Collector-Treasurer significantly reduces the OC San's administrative and collection costs. These savings are reflected in your rate.

The proposed sewer service fees are based on financial and engineering studies and reports. The proposed rates may not be exceeded in any year without another notice. These sewer service fees do not fund the capital costs of constructing new or expanded facilities to serve new development; those costs are paid by the customer's connecting to the local sewer system in the form of a separate capital facilities capacity charge.

Annual Single Family Residential (SFR) User Rate

Current	Proposed Rate Structure beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2028				
2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
\$347	\$358	\$371	\$384	\$397	\$411

The multi-family residential (MFR) use per apartment unit has been established by flow monitoring and census data to be 70% of the SFR use. Thus, the MFR rate will increase proportionally per unit per year. Non-residential users pay a rate per 1,000 square feet of building area, based upon the average quantity and strength of wastewater discharged as determined by studies of actual flows discharged into the system by each particular category of users.

You are receiving this notice because this change in rates will increase the annual rate per 1,000 square feet of building for users in your category from \$ to \$ for the first year of sewerage service. Subsequent annual increases will be proportional to the SFR rate increases described above. Your total service charge will be the product of this rate and the number of 1,000 square feet in your building(s).

Who is the Orange County Sanitation District?

The Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) is a special district responsible for safely collecting, treating, disposing, and recycling of wastewater (sewage) and industrial waste. It is a public agency, separate from the County of Orange or any city government, established under the State Health and Safety Code to provide clean water service to a specific regional geographic area. OC San is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of elected officials from each of the local sewer agencies or cities within our 479-square-mile service area serving 2.6 million people throughout Orange County.

How Our Rates Are Set

We calculated the proposed wastewater rates based on the following studies:

- 2021 Strategic Plan
- 2022 Wastewater Rate Study
- 2022 Asset Management Plan
- 2017 Facilities Master Plan

All of which can be found at www.ocsan.gov.

TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR, FIND OUT MORE

Want to see our treatment process up close or learn more about your regional wastewater treatment provider? Join one of our upcoming virtual tours. Find out more by visiting www.ocsan.gov/tours or emailing forinformation@ocsan.gov.