

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED SEWER RATE**

January 23, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.
135 Willow Rd, Willow Creek, CA 95573

**Willow Creek Community Services District
Board of Directors**

Notice is hereby given that at the date, time and place shown above, the Willow Creek Community Services District (District) will hold a public hearing to consider new fees to cover wastewater services for the next five (5) years (Fiscal years 2021-2026). A new wastewater collection and treatment system is planned to be constructed to serve the downtown area of Willow Creek, CA (see the attached figure of the proposed wastewater collection and treatment system layout). Sewer fees will only be assessed to those within the wastewater service boundary connected to the system. Grant funding has been used to complete the planning and design work for the project and more grant funding has been secured to cover 95% of the construction costs, including lateral connections to residential users. The remaining 5% of costs for lateral connections to commercial users being covered by the District. The proposed sewer rate will cover the estimated recurring costs that the District will have after construction of this project, which includes costs associated with operation, maintenance and future replacement of system components. The purpose of this notice is to describe the proposed sewer rates and notify you of the public hearing.

Project Description

- The collection system will be gravity sewer lines with small pump stations. The project will include working with land owners within the downtown service area to remove their existing septic tanks and install new sewer line to the main street lines.
- The treatment plant will be a recirculating gravel filter. It will have a large primary tank which settles out the solids, and the water is then pumped (recirculated) through gravel beds (2 beds, 40 feet by 40 feet, approximately 4 feet in depth). Micro-organisms will grow in the gravel and essentially clean and treat the water.
- After being treated, the water will be disposed into a large leach field. Note the water will not be discharged into the river.
- The whole treatment process is very similar to what happens in a standard home septic system with the addition of the gravel beds to clean the water to the standards established and permitted by the California State Water Resources Control Board.

Project Timeline

- Winter 2019 – Finalize project design and Prop 218 public rate process
- Spring 2020 – Project to go out to bid for construction
- Summer 2020 – Begin project construction
- Spring 2021 – Make final connections to properties

Sewer Rates

Sewer rates are typically based on the quantity and quality of the wastewater produced by the user. To characterize the quantity of wastewater produced, an Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) is used. An EDU is the volume of wastewater generated by an average household on an average month. An analysis of recent residential water usage records was used to determine an EDU of 550 cubic feet per month for the District. To distinguish the quality of wastewater produced the biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and suspended solids (SS) is considered. Considering these metrics, three user classification were established for the proposed rate structure:

1. Residential – residential ratepayers that generally generate approximately one EDU of wastewater and 210 mg/L of both BOD and SS.
2. Commercial 1 – commercial ratepayers that generate wastewater that does not generally have higher BOD and SS contents than residential wastewater, which includes barber shops, a laundromat, clinics, office buildings, retail venues, motels, and others.
3. Commercial 2 – commercial ratepayers that generate wastewater that has significantly higher BOD and/or SS contents than residential wastewater, which includes restaurants, service stations (that have restaurants inside), and supermarkets with cooking facilities or butchery.

The total required revenue to maintain the system was estimated at approximately \$100,000 per year. This value and anticipated flows per user was used to determine a fixed monthly base rate and a consumption rate (Table 1). The fixed monthly base rate covers an EDU, 550 cubic feet, of wastewater treatment. The consumption rate is used to charge for every 100 cubic feet the user produces beyond the initial 550 cubic feet included in the base rate.

Table 1. Proposed District Sewer Rates

User Classification	Fixed Base Rate (\$ / month)	Consumption Rate (\$ / 100 ft ³ over 550 ft ³)
Residential	\$33.60	Flat fee
Commercial 1	\$33.60	\$9.70
Commercial 2	\$53.40	\$15.40

The District will establish a mechanism to account for the higher water use by Commercial Users from summertime irrigation as that water will not be going through the sewer system. The amount of wastewater produced per Commercial user will be calculated as a fraction of the amount of potable water sent to the user by the District. Residential users are charged a flat fee and increased summer time water use for irrigation will not impact their sewer charges.

There will be no connection fee charged for these initial connections, and the District will pay for the new lateral from each building to the sewer main in the street.

If the District approves the rates at this public hearing, the District may begin imposing the proposed fee schedule when sewer services begins, and it will not need to hold additional public

hearings over the 5 year period. It is important to note that the District cannot impose a fee until service is provided, i.e. after parcel is connected to the wastewater system and wastewater system is operational. If parcel is not connected to the wastewater system, e.g. parcel does not currently have development on it, the District cannot impose the fee until connection is established and service is provided.

Protesting the Proposed Sewer Rates

Written protests from property owners and District customers may be submitted in writing any time **before the closing** of the District public hearing on January 23rd, 2020. Protests may be mailed to the District, hand delivered to the District at the customer counter or brought to the District public hearing and hand delivered at that time. Protests will be accepted and tabulated pursuant to Prop 218 requirements. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 53755(a)(3)(b) only one written protest will be counted per parcel. If protests are received from property owners or customers with respect to a majority of the affected parcels (50 percent plus one) then the District cannot approve the proposed rate increases.

A protest must be received by the District prior to the close of the public hearing on January 23, 2020 and include the following:

- Signature of the property owner or customer of record submitting the protest
- The address of the property within the Sewer Service Area (see attached figure);
- Statement of protest against the proposed rate increase.

Questions

You may contact the District at 530-629-2136 or by email at willowcreekcsd@gmail.com if you have any questions about this notice or the proposed rate increases.

More Information

For further project information, please visit the District website for the WCCSD Downtown Wastewater Development: Preliminary Engineering Report – Wastewater Facilities here: www.willowcreekcsd.com/wastewater/