



## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

### **To Consider Proposed adjustments to Sewer Service Charges**

**Tuesday, May 6, 2025, 6:00 p.m.**

#### **Proposition 218**

Pursuant to Article XIID of the California Constitution and the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation, the City of National City ("City") hereby gives notice that a public hearing will be held on May 6, 2025 at 6:00 PM, or as soon as possible thereafter as the matter can be heard, at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting. The public hearing will be held in the Council Chamber of City Hall, located at 1243 National City Boulevard, National City, California, 91950.

Upon conclusion of the public hearing, the City Council will consider a proposed increase to the rates the City charges for sewer service for Fiscal Years 2025/26 through 2029/30. If approved, the rate adjustment will become effective on customers' 2025/26 property tax bills. For more detailed information on how the sewer rates were calculated, copies of the Ardurra rate study analysis (see below) are available at <http://www.nationalcityca.gov/engineerinpublic-works/engineering-division/sewer-service> or at the Engineering/Public Works Department, located at 1243 National City Boulevard, National City, California, 91950, Telephone No. (619)-336-4380.

#### **Reason for Proposed Rate Increase**

The City is provided wastewater treatment and disposal services by the City of San Diego's Metropolitan Wastewater System ("Metro"). The proposed rate adjustments will allow the City to collect sufficient revenue so the City may continue providing sewer service to customers in the face of sharply increasing operating costs from Metro. The proposed rate adjustments will also enable the City to pay for capital improvements that are essential for operating the sewer system in a safe and financially prudent manner. The City's system is aging and requires more extensive maintenance. Revenues derived from the City's sewer service charges, and any adopted adjustments described in this notice, will be used solely for the actual and necessary expenses of providing sewer service to customers. The City is prohibited by law from making a profit on sewer service.

The City elected to conduct a comprehensive review of its sewer rates for all users to ensure the long-term stability of its sewer services. The new proposed rate increases are based on a January 28, 2025 rate study titled "City of National City Sewer Rate Study" (the "Study") conducted by Ardurra, a well-respected engineering and consulting firm. Ardurra considered all sewer-related factors described in this notice, in addition to other, more specific information described in the Study, in conducting their sewer rate analysis. The Study's underlying rate methodology will be discussed in more detail at the public hearing.

#### **Protest Procedure**

The property owner of record or tenant of the property may file a written protest to the proposed rate adjustment. Property owners or tenants do not have to attend the public hearing in order to file a protest. Protests may be mailed to: City Clerk, 1243 National City Boulevard, National City,

Engineering & Public Works Department  
1243 National City Boulevard, National City, CA 91950  
619/336-4380 [www.nationalcityca.gov](http://www.nationalcityca.gov)



California 91950. If protesting by mail, please write on the front of the envelope that the enclosed letter of protest is for the proposed sewer rate adjustments. All protests must be received before the close of the public comment portion of the public hearing on May 6, 2025. Any protests received after that date and time, even if postmarked on or prior to that date, will not be counted.

The protest must be signed by the property owner(s) or tenant(s). Because an original signature is required, any protest received via e-mail, fax, or other electronic means will not be accepted. Similarly, protests with copies of signatures will not be counted. Oral comments do not qualify as a protest, unless accompanied by a written protest. While both property owners and tenants of a property may attend the public hearing, only one valid protest per parcel will be counted.

In order to be counted, each protest must contain the following:

1. State that the property owner of record is opposed to the proposed rate increase.
2. Identify the location of the parcel by street address, assessor's parcel number (APN) listed on the address label of your envelope, or City account number.
3. Provide the printed name and original signature of the property owner or tenant submitting the protest.
4. If you wish to protest and you own multiple properties, you may file one valid protest for each parcel that you own. Only one protest will be counted per parcel. For example, if you own five parcels and you wish to file protests for each of your properties, you must file five separate protests.
5. If you wish to protest and your parcel is owned by more than one person, or by a corporation or other legal entity, you may only file one protest for that parcel. Proper documentation must be provided showing that the person who signs the protest has the authority to sign on behalf of the other owners, corporation, or legal entity.
6. If the name of the property owner was not shown on San Diego County's last equalized assessment roll as the owner of record, you must provide the City with a certified copy of a recorded deed.

Individuals with disabilities who require reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act in order to participate in the public hearing should contact the City Clerk's Office as far in advance of the public hearing as possible.

### **Proposed Increases**

The City last adjusted sewer service charges in FY 2017 for a five year period ending in FY 2023. The Study showed that, over the next five years, current sewer service revenues will not meet the increasing cost of City operating and capital expenses. The City's system of sewer service charges meets regulatory and industry standards, and the current rate schedule reflects the proper elements of a cost-of-service-based rate structure. No structural changes to the current system of charges will be made, but rate increases are different for different customer classes to maintain the correct balance of the cost-of-service.

Based upon the Study, rate increases will be considered for each of the City's four distinct sewer customer groups: (1) single-family residential; (2) multi-family; (3) mobile home parks; and (4) commercial/industrial. The City maintains a specific sewer charge formula for each of



these four customer groups. Single family, multi-family, and mobile home customers are billed flat rates based on a system of equivalent dwelling units established for each of these three customer groups. Commercial/industrial users are placed into one of five rate categories based on (1) their respective sewage strengths, and (2) 90% of the users' total water usage from the prior year.

The following rate table contains the recommended sewer service charges that the City Council will consider for adoption at the public hearing:

	EXISTING					
	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030
<b>Residential: \$ Per Month</b>						
Single Family	\$ 51.18	\$ 52.72	\$ 54.30	\$ 55.93	\$ 57.60	\$ 59.33
Multi-family/Condo	\$ 39.92	\$ 41.12	\$ 42.35	\$ 43.62	\$ 44.93	\$ 46.28
Mobile Homes	\$ 31.22	\$ 31.53	\$ 31.85	\$ 32.17	\$ 32.49	\$ 32.81
<b>Non-Residential: \$ Per HCF</b>						
Commercial - Low	\$ 5.25	\$ 5.67	\$ 6.12	\$ 6.61	\$ 7.14	\$ 7.71
Commercial - Medium Low	\$ 5.66	\$ 6.06	\$ 6.48	\$ 6.93	\$ 7.42	\$ 7.94
Commercial - Medium	\$ 6.80	\$ 7.28	\$ 7.79	\$ 8.33	\$ 8.91	\$ 9.54
Commercial - Medium High	\$ 7.95	\$ 8.43	\$ 8.93	\$ 9.47	\$ 10.04	\$ 10.64
Commercial - High	\$ 9.88	\$ 10.42	\$ 11.00	\$ 11.60	\$ 12.24	\$ 12.91

\*Commercial properties have an annual minimum charge which is equivalent to the mobile home annual charge. Duplexes or a single ADU with a single family on a property are charged one single family rate and one multi-family rate.

**Pass-Through Costs**

The above-proposed rate table is based, in part, on projections provided by Metro, which provides treatment for all of the City's sewage. State law allows the City to pass through to customers any increases to wholesale treatment costs that exceed the budgeted amounts for those services in the rate study. In the event of any adopted increase of such wholesale costs, the City may automatically adjust the rate table above and will provide customers at least 30 days' notice before the effective date of any adjustment.

If you have any questions about this process, or this notice in general, please contact the Engineering / Public Works Department at (619)-336-4380.

## CITY OF NATIONAL CITY

### NOTICE AND SUMMARY OF INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED ORDINANCE

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City Clerk of the City of National City is in receipt of a written rate study analyzing residential and non-residential annual sewer service charges for the next five years, 2025-2030, with 3% increases each year. The report may be viewed at the City Clerk's Office, 1243 National City Blvd., during normal business hours.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that the City Council of the City of National City will hold a Public Hearing after the hour of 6:00 p.m., **Tuesday, May 6, 2025**, in the City Council Chambers, Civic Center, 1243 National City Boulevard, National City, California:

**TO CONSIDER PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NATIONAL CITY TO INCREASE THE WASTEWATER RATES BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2029-2030. AFTER SUCH HEARING, THE CITY COUNCIL MAY ADOPT, REVISE, CHANGE, REDUCE OR MODIFY ANY CHARGE OR OVERRULE ANY AND ALL OBJECTIONS AND MAKE A FINAL DETERMINATION UPON EACH CHARGE DESCRIBED IN THE REPORT AND CONSIDER FINAL ADOPTION OF SAID REPORT.**

The City Council will have the Second reading of this ordinance wherein they will consider its adoption at its Regular Meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. via LIVE WEBCAST in the City Council Chamber, 1243 National City Boulevard, National City, California. **Written comments or testimony from the public must be submitted via e-mail to [publiccomment@nationalcityca.gov](mailto:publiccomment@nationalcityca.gov) by 2:00 P.M. on the day of the City Council Meeting.**

A full text copy of the proposed ordinance, and Regular Online Meeting of the City Council, will be webcast and archived on the City's website at: [www.nationalcityca.gov](http://www.nationalcityca.gov).

Shelley Chapel, MMC, City Clerk  
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