



# CENTRAL SAN

## FOUR-YEAR RATE INCREASE CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (Central San) is your local sewer service provider protecting public health and the environment. Every day we collect and clean wastewater for nearly 500,000 residents and over 3,000 businesses in central Contra Costa County. Every time you wash your dishes or clothes, flush your toilets, use your sinks, bathtubs and showers, Central San collects and cleans all that dirty water. It is not easy, but we take our job seriously. We rely on over 1,500 miles of underground pipe and 18 pump stations to transport wastewater from our customers to our regional treatment plant where we clean over 36 million gallons of wastewater a day.

### DOING MORE TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

- 1. Household Hazardous Waste Collection (HHW):** For over 20 years, we have operated one of the most highly successful HHW facilities in the nation. We have collected over 39 million pounds of paint, cleaners, pesticides, batteries, fluorescent lamps and much more, keeping those hazardous products out of waterways by reusing or recycling 90% of what we collect.
- 2. Recycled Water:** Always on the forefront of local water resiliency, our residential and commercial recycled water program has saved nearly one billion gallons of precious drinking water since 2014.
- 3. Unwanted Medication Collection:** Central San has worked diligently to keep unwanted medications out of our waterways and away from aquatic life by sponsoring 13 collection bins located throughout the communities we serve. Since 2009, we have properly disposed of over 126,000 pounds of unwanted medications.

### PARTNERING WITH OUR CUSTOMERS

We have not done this alone. You, our customers, have provided us with the funds necessary to do all this work and fulfill our mission of protecting public health and our local environment. As part of the trust you have placed in us, we are committed to providing you exceptional customer service at reasonable rates. Over the last five years, we have kept our operating budget flat and will further reduce it by \$2 million next year. We also do this by proactively maintaining our infrastructure, which has extended the lifespan of many facilities and equipment beyond their expected useful lives. When necessary, we have also continuously invested in our pipes, pumps, and treatment plant throughout our service area. Now we are at a critical juncture, where maintenance alone is not sufficient to guarantee the reliable service you have come to expect from us.

### PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

In 2017, Central San began implementing a 20-year master plan that clearly prioritizes what and when parts of our treatment plant, neighborhood sewer pipes and pump stations are expected to need extensive repair or replacement. Our master plan is focused on four major factors: replacing aging infrastructure, meeting emerging regulatory requirements, preparing for the future, and ensuring sustainability in everything we do.

In the last two years alone, we have worked hard to complete the following major projects:

- 1. Headworks Screening** – Replaced outdated screens with new technology that removes over 276 tons of plastics and debris per year from wastewater coming into the treatment plant.
- 2. Collection System** – Replaced 11 miles of neighborhood sewer pipes.
- 3. Wet Scrubber** – Completed an award-winning air pollution control research project that tested a new air cleaning technology system, reducing future capital costs by over \$14 million.
- 4. Pump and Blower Building** – Constructed seismic upgrades to a 40-year-old building that houses critical large pumps and equipment that helps wastewater move through the treatment plant.

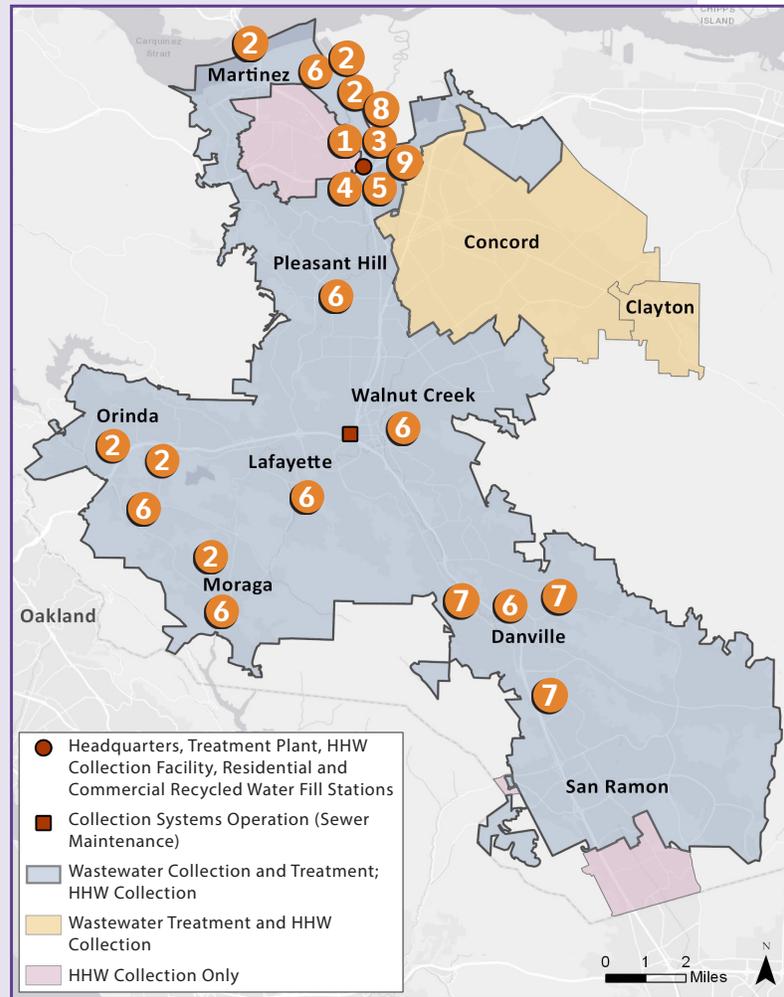




## PROGRESSING FORWARD

Our master plan identifies many upgrade and replacement projects for the collection system pipes, pump stations, and treatment plant to ensure they continue to function properly now and into the future. To do so, we will need to triple capital spending. These proposed rate increases will provide the necessary funding to complete the nine critical projects currently scheduled for the next four years.

- 1 Solids Handling** – We will renovate the existing 40-year old solids handling facilities and replace critical equipment that will ensure reliable ongoing processing of wastewater solids and compliance with strict air quality regulations.
- 2 Pump Stations** – We will improve three large pump stations that are essential for continuous delivery of wastewater from Orinda and Moraga to our treatment plant, and we will design improvements for three additional pump stations serving Martinez.
- 3 Filter Plant and Clearwell** – We will replace aging components of recycled water production and storage facilities, sustaining the recycled water supply for industrial and landscape use instead of using our community's precious drinking water.
- 4 Mechanical and Concrete** – We will rehabilitate structures and equipment where wastewater enters the treatment plant and in the primary treatment areas, which are some of the most corrosive environments at the plant.
- 5 Steam and Aeration Blower Systems** - We will provide comprehensive condition assessments for the aging steam generation equipment, piping, and support facilities and will evaluate the condition of aeration blowers and biological treatment facilities, to confirm the need for near- and long-term upgrades.
- 6 Collection System** – We will replace 28 miles of aging neighborhood sewer pipes.
- 7 Large Sewer Inspections** – We will increase inspection and condition assessments of large sewers, called interceptors, that convey your wastewater. Some of these sewers are up to 8.5 feet in diameter.
- 8 Outfall Improvements** – We will inspect and make improvements to a 3.5-mile, 6-foot diameter outfall pipeline that was originally built in 1958 and conveys clean treated water to Suisun Bay.
- 9 Flood Resiliency Improvements** – We will partner with Contra Costa County Flood Control District to raise the levee along portions of Walnut and Grayson Creeks to ensure Central San's treatment plant is protected from flooding. We will also improve critical underground treatment plant pumps to prevent them from flooding.





## CURRENT & PROPOSED ANNUAL SEWER SERVICE CHARGE RATES

USER GROUP	CURRENT RATE	Maximum Proposed Rate Effective July 1, 2019	Maximum Proposed Rate Effective July 1, 2020	Maximum Proposed Rate Effective July 1, 2021	Maximum Proposed Rate Effective July 1, 2022
<b>Residential Customers</b> (rate per living unit)					
Single Family Homes	\$567.00	\$598.00	\$629.00	\$660.00	\$690.00
Apartments, Condominiums, Duplexes, Second Living Units, Mobile Homes	\$549.00	\$566.00	\$596.00	\$625.00	\$654.00
<b>Commercial and Other Non-Residential Customers</b> (per Hundred Cubic Feet (HCF))					
<b>Strength Category*</b> / Former Category Name					
<b>Low</b> / Standard Commercial, Churches, Daycare, Preschools and Universities	\$5.61	\$6.23	\$6.56	\$6.87	\$7.20
<b>Low</b> / Automotive	\$6.46	\$6.23	\$6.56	\$6.87	\$7.20
<b>Low-Medium</b> / Delicatessens, Yogurt Shops, Ice Cream Shops, Coffee Shops, Bars, and Mixed-Use (Rate XA)	\$5.61	\$6.72	\$8.05	\$8.43	\$8.83
<b>Low-Medium</b> / Shared meters with 50% or less food service	varies	\$7.65	\$8.05	\$8.43	\$8.83
<b>Medium</b> / Shared meters with 50% or more food service	varies	\$9.59	\$10.09	\$10.57	\$11.07
<b>Medium-High</b> / Hotels and Motels	\$9.74	\$10.70	\$11.26	\$11.79	\$12.35
<b>Medium-High</b> / Restaurants and Supermarkets	\$10.53	\$10.70	\$11.26	\$11.79	\$12.35
<b>Medium-High</b> / Shared meters with Bakeries and High Strength Food Services	varies	\$10.70	\$11.26	\$11.79	\$12.35
<b>High</b> / Mortuaries	\$12.93	\$14.18	\$14.92	\$15.63	\$16.37
<b>High</b> / Bakeries	\$14.90	\$14.18	\$14.92	\$15.63	\$16.37
<b>High</b> / Breweries and Restaurants with Grinders or Emulsifiers	new	\$14.18	\$14.92	\$15.63	\$16.37
Minimum Annual Charge	\$566.00	\$566.00	\$596.00	\$625.00	\$654.00

\* **Strength Category:** Some types of businesses produce more concentrated sewer waste that requires additional energy and effort to treat. Central San has developed five categories – low, low-medium, medium, medium-high and high – to fairly charge those customers for their proportionate cost of providing wastewater treatment services. This simplifies Central San's Commercial and Non-Residential rate categories.

A nonresidential customer's annual Sewer Service Charge is determined by multiplying the appropriate strength category rate times the annual wastewater discharge volume measured in HCF (Hundred Cubic Feet). For example, a bakery discharging 250 HCF per year would pay an annual sewer service charge at the July 1, 2019 proposed rate calculated as follows: (\$14.18 per HCF) x (250 HCF per year) = \$3,545.00.

If you have questions regarding your Sewer Service Charge, or would like us to calculate a property-specific estimate of your Sewer Service Charge for the upcoming rate years, please send an e-mail request including your name, Assessor's Parcel Number(s), address and phone number to [rates@centralsan.org](mailto:rates@centralsan.org), or call Central San's Community Information Line at (925) 335-7702. Additional information is available at [www.centralsan.org](http://www.centralsan.org).

## RATE HEARING PROCESS

Central San's annual Sewer Service Charge funds operations, maintenance, and construction of critical infrastructure. Proposition 218 requires that wastewater agencies like Central San must base their charges on the cost of providing those services. Central San's Board of Directors will consider proposed rate increases for the next four years for property owners of single family and multifamily dwellings, and commercial, industrial, and institutional properties at a public hearing on **April 18, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.**, Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Board Room, 5019 Imhoff Place, Martinez, CA 94553. The single family home rate increases under consideration are up to: \$31 (5.5%) for 2019, \$31 (5.2%) for 2020, \$31 (4.9%) for 2021, and \$30 (4.6%) for 2022. Public comments and written protests will be accepted at the public hearing. Written protests may be mailed or hand-delivered to Central San prior to the public hearing to the Secretary of the District at the address listed above. Written protests must include the property's address or Assessor's Parcel Number(s) and must be signed by the property owner or tenant. Scanned copies of signed protest letters may also be submitted by fax (925) 954-6940 or email to [kyoung@centralsan.org](mailto:kyoung@centralsan.org). All written protests must be received prior to the close of the public hearing. As required by law, the rate increases will not be imposed if valid written protests are received from a majority of property owners. Additional information about filing a protest can be found at [www.centralsan.org](http://www.centralsan.org) or by calling (925) 335-7702.



NOTICE OF  
PROPOSED RATE  
INCREASES AND  
PUBLIC HEARING  
AT 1:30 P.M. ON  
APRIL 18, 2019

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- 1** We will implement nine large-scale projects that will upgrade infrastructure at our treatment plant, pump stations, interceptors, and outfall pipe, which are critical to moving and cleaning wastewater.
- 2** We will continue to implement an extensive neighborhood sewer pipe replacement program which will maintain and improve reliable service levels in the community.
- 3** We stay committed to protecting the local environment and will continue to offer and grow services such as the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, Residential and Commercial Recycled Water Fill Stations, and provide collection bins throughout our service area for unwanted medications.
- 4** We will continue to provide our customers exceptional service at responsible rates.

