

# Proposed sewer rate adjustments for businesses

(2015 proposal)

Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) is considering restructuring its sewer rates in a way that will result in an increase for most customers and a decrease for others, effective July 1, 2015. Nominal rate increases are also being considered for the following four years.

## Why are rate increases being considered?

CVWD is dedicated to providing exceptional services at the lowest possible cost while ensuring the district has the funds it needs to operate and provide those services. This commitment to fiscal responsibility has helped the district avoid raising sewer rates since 2010. Now, rate increases are necessary to enable the district to:

- Cover increases in the cost to operate and maintain the sewer system;
- Make capital improvements needed to repair, replace and update aging infrastructure;
- Fund new sewer infrastructure;
- Maintain operational and financial stability;
- Maintain reserves;
- Comply with stringent state and federal regulatory wastewater treatment and disposal requirements.

## What adjustments to the sewer rate structure are being considered?

Currently there are five sewer rate areas that pay different rates, based on location within the Coachella Valley. It is proposed that these location variances be eliminated and replaced with equitable rates tailored to different customer classes, based on the demand to the sewer system.

## Why are commercial classes being created?

Currently all commercial customers within a geographical service area pay the same service charge and volumetric rate based upon the amount of potable water received. This does not take into consideration varying degrees of impact upon the sewer system that different types of commercial accounts have. Mobile homes and trailer parks, for example, do not need sewer cleaning. Businesses, institutions and hotels and motels need semi-annual sewer cleaning; commercial and industrial accounts need quarterly sewer cleaning. By creating specific classes, the district can charge a equitable rate.

Customer class	Current monthly service charge per EDU (varies by location)	Proposed monthly service charge per EDU	Current volumetric rate per ccf (varies by location)	Proposed volumetric rate per ccf	Proposed new monthly account charge
RV/Trailer Park	\$24.50 - \$32.40	\$16.79	\$1.07 - \$1.43	82 cents	\$5.98
Public Agency	\$24.50 - \$32.40	\$25.18	\$1.07 - \$1.43	82 cents	\$5.98
Business	\$24.50 - \$32.40	\$17.01	\$1.07 - \$1.43	82 cents	\$5.98
Hotel/Motel	\$24.50 - \$32.40	\$26.58	\$1.07 - \$1.43	82 cents	\$5.98
Commercial	\$24.50 - \$32.40	\$39.30	\$1.07 - \$1.43	82 cents	\$5.98



**How will this rate adjustment affect my business?**

Under the proposal, some businesses would see a decrease in their monthly service charge and some would see an increase. In addition, a new monthly account charge would be established. To better understand how your business will be affected, call (760) 391-9600.

**How can I learn more about the proposed changes?**

Information about the proposed rate adjustments, including a Rate Report, is available on the district's website at [www.cvwd.org](http://www.cvwd.org).

**How can I share my opinion on the proposed changes?**

CVWD has mailed notices to all rate payers with detailed information about the proposed changes. The notices include a form which can be mailed to the district to protest any proposed increases. In addition, the CVWD Board of Directors will hold a public hearing to consider the rate increases on May 26, 2015, at 9 a.m. in CVWD's Forbes Auditorium at 51501 Tyler Street, Coachella. Anyone may attend and speak at this hearing.

**When will the new rates go into effect?**

If the Board of Directors approves the new rates, they will go into effect July 1, 2015.

