



Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) is a public agency that provides water and sewer service. IRWD provides sewer service to the Newport/North area. Our sewer rates are based on the actual cost to provide sewer service to our customers and are based on the expenses included in IRWD's budget. The basis for the proposed rates is detailed in the Cost of Service Study, which is available at IRWD.com/services/proposed-rates. The IRWD Board of Directors adopted a two-year budget on April 24, 2023. **The proposed rates for the two years, if adopted, will be effective June 26, 2023, and will be implemented on July 1, 2023, and July 1, 2024, respectively.** The increase in sewer service rates is due primarily to uncontrollable pass-through cost increases from regional agencies that supply sewage or energy services to IRWD, as well as inflation and increases in costs associated with continuing to provide the current high level of sewer service our customers expect.

A critical IRWD objective is to keep costs, and therefore rates, as low as possible for our customers. Even with the proposed increase, when compared with other agencies providing similar services in Orange County, IRWD's rates are consistently among the lowest.

Fixed sewer service charges

Monthly service charges cover IRWD's cost of operations, maintenance, and infrastructure, and do not change based on the amount of a customer's monthly sewer use. The monthly charges are billed annually and included in the property owners' annual property tax bill. The fixed charge includes an amount set aside for the future inevitable repair and replacement of infrastructure such as pipes, pumping stations, and treatment facilities. This way, IRWD can avoid significant one-time rate spikes when the repairs and replacements are made. These charges are not used to pay for facilities that extend service to new development.

Proposed changes to fixed monthly sewer service charges			
Usage	Current monthly rates	Proposed rates beginning July 1, 2023	Proposed rates beginning July 1, 2024
Single-family homes, townhouses & condominiums	\$29.75	\$33.24	\$36.79
Apartments	\$20.45	\$23.10	\$25.70

Automatic pass-through adjustments and other surcharges

IRWD used its best available information to calculate proposed increases in the cost of regional treatment of sewage paid to the Orange County Sanitation District (OC San), and the cost of electricity charged by Southern California Edison (SCE). IRWD has no control over the amounts set by regional agencies (OC San, SCE, etc.) or penalties, taxes and fees assessed by the state, and must pass those costs through to IRWD customers. Should any of the regional agencies or the State of California adopt an additional increase (or decrease) in its charges, taxes, or fees ("pass-through amount"), IRWD may automatically recalculate its rates to include the pass-through amount. If this occurs, the automatic IRWD rate adjustment will not require a public hearing or any additional action by the IRWD Board of Directors. At least 30 days before the effective date of the adjustment, IRWD will provide its customers with notice of the expected adjustment(s), which will generally be calculated as the total projected cost increase divided by the projected annual total sewage flow. This calculation will vary as necessary to reflect IRWD's different service areas and service classes. The adjustment will be included in the following year's property tax bill.

Public hearing

Any customer or property owner within the IRWD service area may file a written protest for the proposed rate increases with IRWD by sending a letter to IRWD, P.O. Box 5149, Irvine, CA 92616. A valid protest letter must include your name, the address at which you receive service from IRWD, a statement of protest, and your original signature. Protest letters received by June 26, 2023, will be tabulated and presented to the Board of Directors at a public hearing regarding the rate increase to be held on June 26, 2023, at 5 p.m. in the IRWD Board Room, 15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine, California. Any customer or property owner may appear at the hearing to make comments regarding the proposed rates. Protest letters may be delivered in person and must be received prior to the conclusion of the June 26, 2023, public hearing.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 53759, there is a 120-day statute of limitations for any judicial action or proceeding challenging any new, increased, or extended sewer fee or charge.

Additional information

For more information on sewer rates, please visit IRWD.com. If you have questions, please contact IRWD Customer Service at 949-453-5300.