



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 26, 2021. **The proposed rates, if adopted, will be effective January 24, 2022, and implemented beginning February 1, 2022.** The increase in sewer service rates is due primarily to uncontrollable pass-through cost increases from regional agencies that supply regional sewer or energy services to IRWD, as well as 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.

First rate increase since July 2019

Rates have not been increased in 2½ years. In recognition of financial challenges facing customers during the first 20 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IRWD Board of Directors suspended a previously approved rate increase that was to become effective on July 1, 2020, and deferred a rate increase for costs associated with the new two-year budget approved in April 2021.

Sewer fixed service charges

Monthly service charges are fixed charges that cover IRWD’s cost of operations, maintenance, and infrastructure, and do not change based on the amount of a customer’s monthly sewer use. Monthly service charges are based on a 30-day calendar month, so billing cycles that are longer or shorter than 30 days are billed based on the proportional number of days. 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 sewer service fixed monthly charges for system operation and maintenance beginning February 1, 2022

Usage	Current monthly rates	Proposed rates beginning February 1, 2022
Single family homes, townhouses & condominiums	\$26.10	\$29.75
Apartments	\$19.55	\$20.45

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 SCE. IRWD has no control over the amounts set by regional agencies (OC San, Southern California Edison, 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 as appropriate. This calculation will vary as necessary to reflect IRWD’s different service areas and service classes.

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 January 24, 2022, will be tabulated and presented to the Board of Directors at a public hearing regarding the rate increase to be held on January 24, 2022, 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 January 24 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 about IRWD’s water efficiency programs and rebates, plus tips on how you can use water more efficiently, visit IRWD.com. If you have questions, please contact IRWD Customer Service at **949-453-5300**.