

PUBLIC WORKS PIPELINE

Your resource for utilities news

MAY 2017

UNDERSTANDING PROPOSED WASTEWATER RATES

The City of Oxnard is considering a sewer rate adjustment to cover much-needed repairs and increasing costs related to the wastewater system serving our residents.

The Utility System, which includes wastewater services, is in a dire financial situation. Expenses far outpace revenue and a multi-million-dollar deficit is expected this year.

The proposed increases over five years are based on a cost of service study by an independent expert. For an average household with a bill of \$41.77, the proposed wastewater rates will result in an increase of \$2.22 per month for the first year, with an average increase over the remaining four years of \$2.55. Please see the proposed rate increase for the five-year period below. The cost of service study and the proposed rates can also be viewed online at oxnard.org/prop218.

Revenue from rates is used to cover the costs of providing service – purchasing and maintaining the chemicals and

equipment used to treat wastewater, replacing sewer pipes to protect public health and avoid regulatory violations, and covering debt payments. Per State law, the City cannot profit from rates.

Failing to increase wastewater rates would negatively impact customers. Without boosting revenue, the utility will not be able to meet debt obligations, which would negatively impact its credit rating. Without the adjustment, it will be impossible to maintain and replace ailing, 60-year-old pipes, pumps and other equipment. Service disruptions will become more frequent and require costly emergency repairs. Delayed preventive maintenance and replacement could result in more frequent wastewater spills.

The City is dedicated to providing reliable, quality wastewater service and maintaining our valuable assets. A public hearing on the proposed rate increase is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16, at City Hall, Council Chambers, 305 W. Third St., Oxnard.

Proposed Wastewater Rate Increases Over 5 Years*

Current Monthly Rate	Proposed Monthly Charge					
	EFFECTIVE DATE	7/1/2017	7/1/2018	7/1/2019	7/1/2020	7/1/2021
MONTHLY INCREASE		+ \$2.22	+ \$2.37	+ \$2.45	+ \$2.62	+ \$2.77
PROPOSED RATE		\$43.99	\$46.36	\$48.81	\$51.43	\$54.20

*Based on an average household with 9 HCF of water consumption. 1 HCF (one hundred cubic feet) is equal to 748 gallons. Wastewater service rates have two components: a fixed charge based on customer class, such as single-family residential; and a usage charge based on the volume of water consumed that is returned to the wastewater system, or for commercial and industrial customers, the wastewater flow and/or waste characteristics.

FUNDING IMPROVEMENTS

The largest portion of revenue from wastewater fees goes toward debt payments for previous system upgrades. User fees alone are not adequate to cover operations and the extensive equipment replacement that is needed.



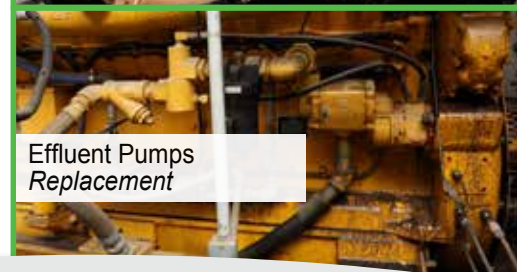
Lab Air Conditioning Replacement



Primary Clarifiers Walkway Replacement



Plant Process Water (3W) Filter Replacement



Effluent Pumps Replacement

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EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS

"Clean and Green is Our Perfect Dream" was this year's Earth Day theme. Activities throughout the month of April highlighted Oxnard's commitment to a clean, safe and healthy environment. On April 11, City staff participated in the Ventura County Board of Supervisors meeting to honor Earth Day.

On April 15, the City sponsored its annual Earth Day event at Oxnard's Plaza Park featuring family activities, live music, food and community displays. The annual event encourages people to act locally while thinking globally about their impact on the environment and is a reminder that Earth Day is every day.

On April 22, La Colonia was the site of a special Mini-Fiesta featuring a Green Alley Demonstration Project, a community garden tour, and arts and crafts. The event was held from 11 am to 3 pm at Camino del Sol and North Garfield Avenue. It was a huge success!



Public Works Fosters Next Generation of Professionals

Students at Emilie Ritchen Elementary School and employees at Oxnard's Public Works Department teamed up for Career Day. Department team members visited the school on April 28 to talk about their jobs in recycling, wastewater, stormwater capture and water resources. They shared information about the skills needed to perform these vital services, what they do on an average day, and how school helped them succeed at work.

Sharing details about these important career choices and community contributions is critical for developing future leaders.

Grant Boosts Recycling Efforts



The City was awarded a \$249,066 State grant to increase beverage container recycling efforts and reduce litter.

The grant from CalRecycle, the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, will fund a project to boost recycling through education and outreach.

The focus will be on apartments and high-litter areas such as alleys and storm drains.

The Environmental Resources Division of the City's Public Works Department is partnering on the project with Oxnard City Corps, part of the Cultural and Community Services Department, which engages young people in community service.

The project will help the City meet State recycling requirements.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Tours!

Are you interested in learning more about wastewater? Tour the facility to get an up-close look at challenges we face as we work to provide safe, reliable service for the community. Upcoming tours will be held at the plant, located at 6001 S. Perkins Road.

For more information, call the Public Works Department at 805-385-8280.

Thursday May 11, 2017
3 PM to 5 PM

Saturday May 13, 2017
10 AM to Noon

Flat, closed-toe shoes are required. Tours start promptly at the scheduled time; latecomers cannot be accommodated. Spanish interpretation is available.