



# PROPOSITION 218 NOTICE

## NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED SEWER RATE INCREASE

County Service Area No. 29 (North Coast)

**Hearing Date and Time: Tuesday, June 23, 2020, 11:30 a.m.**

Location: Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, Ventura County Government Center, 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009-1920

### *Why are you Receiving this Notice?*

The Ventura County Board of Supervisors will be conducting a Public Hearing on a proposed sewer rate increase for County Service Area No. 29 (CSA 29) on June 23, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, Ventura County Government Center, 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California. The County of Ventura Water and Sanitation Department (Department) is responsible for the administration, operations, and maintenance of the sewer collection system. CSA 29 serves the communities of Solimar Beach, Faria Beach, Sealcliff, and Mussel Shoals. The North Coast sewer system is a Septic Tank Effluent Pump system (STEP) which serves over 300 customers. Under contract, the system is operated and maintained by the Ventura Regional Sanitation District. The sewage is discharged to the City of Ventura for wastewater treatment.

### *Why are Rate Changes Required?*

Annually, as part of the budget process, the sewer rate is reviewed to determine if adjustments are needed to accommodate projected expenses. The last sewer rate increase of 9% was approved by the Board of Supervisors in June 2019. This year, a rate adjustment is necessary due to the City of Ventura rate increases of 5%; increased cost of maintenance of 3%; increases in power costs of 3%; and increases in labor rates of 3%. Over the past three fiscal years unplanned emergency repairs, increased maintenance, and sewer spill response depleted the cash reserves by approximately \$196,000. As a result, a 10% sewer rate increase is proposed, effective July 1, 2020, shown in the table below. The increases will allow continued operation and maintenance of the system and the recovery of cash reserves for future emergency repairs.

To reduce the cost of collections, the sewer charges are collected through the annual general County tax roll. A report has been prepared identifying which parcels benefit from the services provided by the Department, listing each Assessor's Parcel Number. The annual amount of the sewer service charge for each parcel depends on its Residential Unit Equivalent ("RUE") and may be obtained by calling the Department at (805) 378-3000, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. The report will also be filed with the Clerk of the Board prior to the public hearing.

### *What are the Current and Proposed Rates?*

CURRENT RATES FY 2019-20	PROPOSED RATES FY 2020-21
\$169.56 per month, per RUE	\$186.52 per month, per RUE
\$2,034.72 per year, per RUE	\$2,238.24 per year, per RUE

### *How do you Protest?*

If you wish to oppose the proposed sewer rate increase, you are requested to submit a written protest by mail prior to the public hearing to the following address: Water and Sanitation Department, Attn: CSA 29 Sewer Rate Protest, 6767 Spring Road, P.O. Box 250, Moorpark, CA, 93020-0250. Protests must contain the following information: (1) the property's Assessor's Parcel Number and address; (2) whether you are the owner of record of the property or a leaseholder (if you were not the owner of the property as of Ventura County's last tax roll, please include confirmation that you presently own the property); (3) a statement that you are protesting the sewer rate increase; and (4) your name (printed), date, and original signature.

The Department will not count written protests received after the conclusion of the public hearing. Verbal protests unaccompanied by a written protest will not be counted, and facsimile (fax) protests will not be accepted. If you choose to submit your protest by regular mail, please allow sufficient time for the mail to be delivered; the Department is not responsible for U.S. Postal Service delays. Only one protest per property will be counted. If you own multiple properties affected by the proposed increases, you should submit separate protests for each affected parcel, as the protest threshold is based upon a majority of the total number of parcels. Once opened, protests are disclosable public record. To view the Board agenda, visit <http://www.ventura.org/meetings-and-broadcasts> the Thursday prior to the public hearing date.