

## NEW RATES

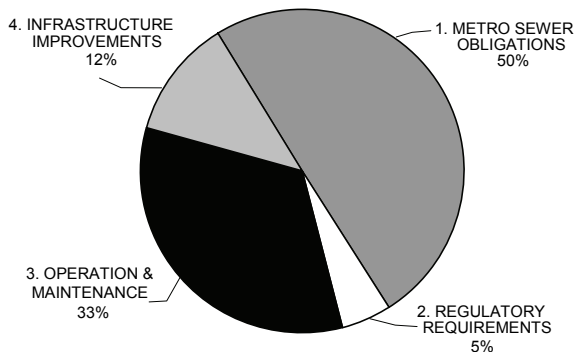
On June 26, 2007, the La Mesa City Council approved sewer rates for all sewer service customers for the next two years. The new sewer rates will be effective beginning with bills mailed on or after September 1, 2007. The second approved sewer rate adjustment will take effect on July 1, 2008.

## WHY IS AN INCREASE NECESSARY?

The City of La Mesa is obligated to pay its proportionate share of the costs for participation in the Metro Sewer System. Fifty percent of La Mesa's sewer costs are paid to the City of San Diego and other agencies to meet Metro sewer treatment and disposal obligations (these costs are not under the direct control of the City of La Mesa). The sewer rate increases will enable the City to adequately fund sewer programs and balance the Fund's budgeted expenditures with required revenues.

Specifically, the charges are necessary to:

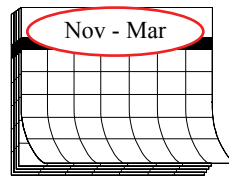
1. Meet Metro sewer transportation and treatment obligations.
2. Comply with Clean Water Act Permit requirements.
3. Sustain the current level of maintenance of the City's sewer system.
4. Replace critical sewer pipes within the City.



BI-MONTHLY SEWER SERVICE FEE SCHEDULE							
Customer Classification		Rate Effective July 1, 2006		Rate Effective Sept 1, 2007		Rate Effective July 1, 2008	
		Base Charge	Water Use Charge Per 100 CF*	Base Charge	Water Use Charge Per 100 CF*	Base Charge	Water Use Charge Per 100 CF*
<i>Residential</i>	<i>Single Family**</i>	\$17.80	\$2.990	\$18.97	\$3.016	\$19.88	\$3.103
	<i>Maximum Single Family Bi-monthly Bill</i>	\$83.58		\$85.32		\$88.14	
	<i>Multi-Family</i>	\$17.80	\$3.18	\$18.97	\$3.25	\$19.88	\$3.34
<i>Commercial /Industrial</i>	<i>Low Strength</i>	\$17.80	\$3.47	\$18.97	\$3.48	\$19.88	\$3.57
	<i>Medium Strength</i>	\$17.80	\$4.00	\$18.97	\$4.00	\$19.88	\$4.00
	<i>High Strength</i>	\$17.80	\$4.49	\$18.97	\$4.70	\$19.88	\$4.78
	<i>Extra High Strength</i>	\$17.80	\$11.89	\$18.97	\$11.89	\$19.88	\$11.89

\*100 cubic feet (CF) = 1 unit = 748 gallons  
 \*\*A bi-monthly billing cap of 22 units applies to single family residences.

## WHAT ARE SEWER FEES BASED ON?



Your sewer rate is established based on a five-year average of the amount of water used at your property during the winter months (November through March, depending on your billing cycle).

There are three types of customer classifications used to determine sewer service charges: single family, multi-family and commercial/industrial. The sewer rates affect each customer class differently.

Single Family Customers: Sewer bills will differ by household because the bill is based on the customer's five-year *average winter water usage*. Averages are recalculated each year and become effective on September 1 in 2007 and on July 1 each year thereafter. A bi-monthly billing cap of 22 units is applied to single family residential sewer customers.

Multi-family and Commercial/Industrial Customers: Bills are also based on a five-year average winter water usage. Averages are recalculated each year and become effective on September 1 in 2007 and on July 1 each year thereafter. There is no billing cap for these categories.

## HOW IS MY BILL CALCULATED?

To calculate the bi-monthly sewer fee for a residence or a business, take the five-year average winter water use for the property (the maximum is 22 units for single family residential customers), multiply it by the Water Use Charge, and add that number to the Base Charge.

For example, to calculate the bi-monthly sewer bill beginning July 1, 2008 for a single family residence with a bi-monthly winter water use average of 16 units, you would multiply 16 units by \$3.103 and add \$19.88, for a total of \$69.52 ( $16 \times \$3.103 = \$49.64 + \$19.88 = \$69.52$ ).

## ABOUT THE 5-YEAR WINTER WATER USAGE BILLING METHOD

The City of La Mesa uses a winter water based sewer rate. Your sewer usage charge is established based on the average amount of water consumed at your property during the winter months (November through March, depending on your billing cycle). The averages are recalculated each year and the bi-monthly amount remains the same for a year at a time. **Your current water usage does not affect your current sewer bill.**



The winter water based billing method is designed to more fairly distribute the costs of operating the sewer system. Studies show that the water consumed during the wettest months of the year (November through March) approximates sewer flows. This is because landscape irrigation should be at a minimum and most water consumed is returned to the sewer. The five-year averaging method has been implemented to stabilize customer's bills from year to year and reduce the impact that changes in winter weather conditions can have on sewer rates.

## HOW DO I MAKE A PAYMENT?

There are a variety of convenient ways to pay your sewer bill.

- Mail your payment.
- Sign up to use our Auto-Pay service, which automatically debits your checking account.
- Use one of our drop boxes conveniently located next to the driveway exiting the Date Avenue parking lot and at the entrances to City Hall.
- Pay at the Finance Counter in City Hall.

To obtain an Auto-Pay application, please visit our website at [www.cityoflamesa.com](http://www.cityoflamesa.com) or call our office at 619.667.1126.

## PENALTIES

As with any bill, your sewer bill has a specific due date. The penalty for a late payment is 10 percent.

## HOW DO LA MESA RATES COMPARE TO OTHER AGENCIES?

Many Metro Sewer System participating agencies have continued to increase sewer rates annually in order to keep up with rising regulatory and operational costs. A survey of other agencies showed that La Mesa's sewer service fee is among the lowest.

## DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

If you have additional questions about your sewer bill or would like more information about how sewer rates are established, please visit our website at [www.cityoflamesa.com](http://www.cityoflamesa.com) or call Customer Service at 619.667.1126.

## SEWER EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE

Please call the Department of Public Works at 619.667.1450.



# Sewer Service Fees

*For rates effective  
September 1, 2007  
through  
June 30, 2010*

La Mesa City Hall  
8130 Allison Avenue  
La Mesa, CA 91942

619.667.1126

[www.cityoflamesa.com](http://www.cityoflamesa.com)