Sewer Service Charges

City of Chula Vista Engineering & Capital Projects Department
276 Fourth Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910

In addition to other fees, assessments or charges provided by the Chula Vista Municipal Code or otherwise, the owner or occupant of any parcel of real property which said parcel is connected to the sewer system of the City and to a water system maintained by the Sweetwater Authority, California American Water District or the Otay Municipal Water District shall pay a sewer service charge as follows:

START	7/1/2025	7/1/2026
MONTHLY FIXED CHARGE ($/MONTH)		
Customer Type		
Single Family	$19.06	$20.28
5/8"	$19.06	$20.28
3/4"	$19.06	$20.28
1"	$37.37	$39.77
1 1/2"	$67.90	$72.27
2"	$104.51	$111.24
3"	$202.18	$215.19
4"	$312.04	$332.13
6"	$617.24	$656.99
8"	$1,227.64	$1,306.71
MONTHLY VOLUME CHARGE ($/HCF)		
Customer Type		
Residential		
Single Family	$5.59	$5.95
Multi-Family	$5.59	$5.95
Mobile Homes	$5.59	$5.95
Non-Residential		
Commercial - Low	$5.59	$5.95
Commercial - Med	$7.90	$8.40
Commercial - High	$12.58	$13.39
Special Users	Varies	Varies

*HCF – Hundred Cubic Feet.
(1) Rates include Sewer Service Charge, Sewer Facilities Replacement Fee but not the Storm Drain Fee.
(2) Sewer Rate Case approved 4/26/22 with rate increases July 1 starting in 2022 through 2025.
(3) On 4/26/22, the City Council approved the pass-through process for wholesale treatment costs pursuant to California Government Code 53756, per Resolution 2022-093. This resulted in an increase in the sewer rates starting July 1, 2023. Each year Metro treatment costs will be evaluated and actual costs (increases or decreases) will be applied July 1, in addition to the approved rate increases in (2).

RESIDENTIAL RATES

1. Single Family

The sewer service charge for each single-family dwelling unit serviced by a separate water meter is based on the lowest "Winter Average", which is the lowest average water consumption for 2 consecutive months during the data collection period, November 1st through April 30th. The rate shall be in accordance with the adopted rate schedule. Each single-family dwelling will be charged a fixed service charge and a variable commodity rate. A rate of return (ROR) of 90% is assumed for all single-family dwelling units.

Single Family Billing Formula

Lowest "Winter Average"	x	90% ROR	x	$ Sewer rate/HCF	+	Fixed Service Charge	=	Monthly Sewer Charge

2. Multi – Family

The sewer service charge for other parcels of real property used for domestic purposes and serviced by a water meter shall be a the prevailing rate per each one hundred cubic feet (HCF) of water usage by such parcel. Each parcel will be charged a fixed service charge and a variable commodity charge. The fixed charge will be assessed for each meter that services the facility and will be dependent on the size of the meter.

A rate of return (ROR) of 79% is assumed for all multi-family dwellings and 84% for mobile homes.

Multi – Family Billing Formula

Total Meter Readings (Monthly)	x	ROR	x	HCF Rate for Sewage Class	+	Fixed Service Charge	=	Monthly Sewer Charge

3. Sewer Service Charge for Low Income Households

Low Income Households (as defined in Fee Bulletin 1-100) including renters of property who are eligible to receive a reduced rate for monthly sewer service charges, shall be billed a commodity rate that is

70% of the prevailing rate. The Finance Department of the City shall make available the required application form and process all applications. Application will require the submittal of information on total household income, the number of persons in the household and the type of dwelling unit. Proof of total annual income shall be furnished.

Requests for annual refunds shall be made by eligible households between August 1 and September 30 of each year for the past fiscal year beginning July and ending in June. The applicant will be notified of eligibility status within thirty (30) days of application and if eligible, the refund forwarded within ninety (90) days of application.

COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL RATES

The sewer service charge for premises used for other than domestic purposes shall be at the prevailing rate per hundred cubic feet (HCF) of water usage. The non-residential sewer service charge shall consist of a fixed service charge and a variable commodity charge. The fixed charge will be assessed for each meter that serves the facility and will be dependent on the size of the meter.

The variable commodity charge shall be based on the quantity and strength of the sewage generated using a rate of return (ROR) of 90% and two strength parameters: BOD – biochemical oxygen demand and TSS – total suspended solids concentrations

Commercial Billing Formula

Total Meter Readings (Monthly)	x	ROR	x	HCF Rate for Sewage Class	+	Fixed Service Charge	=	Monthly Sewer Charge

1. Rate of Return

Unless otherwise established by an approved variance, wastewater discharge shall be assumed to be 90% of water consumed. Therefore, where commercial or industrial facilities are billed on the basis of wastewater discharge, the regular sewer service rate shall be multiplied by 0.90.

2. Wastewater Strength

Wastewater strength categories will be determined using either Table 2-2 "City of Chula Vista Compilation of Published Data on Sewer User Strength classifications" (excerpted from the Wastewater User & Rate Restructuring by PBS&J dated May 2003) or actual sampling results, as determined by the City Engineer. Dischargers who believe that their total suspended solids concentration is sufficiently low to qualify for a different category of sewer service charge billing may apply to the City Manager in writing for a variance in accordance with Chula Vista Municipal Code Section 13.14.130. When there is a change in the rate payer, the category will be re-evaluated.

TAX BILL

Charges for single-family residential dwellings, multiple family dwelling and commercial industrial discharges collected on the Tax bill shall be based on a recent 12-month water usage period.

HIGH VOLUME DISCHARGERS

Premises that discharge over 25,000 gallons per day (gpd) are classified as high-volume dischargers. These dischargers shall be billed bi-monthly by the City of Chula Vista. Wastewater discharge shall be assumed to be 90 percent of water consumed, unless established otherwise by an approved variance.

The Sewer Service Charge is determined on an individual basis and is comprised of a **Fixed Service Charge (FSC)** and a **Variable Commodity Charge (VCC).** The FSC is based on the water meter size and the VCC is calculated by multiplying the Sewer Rate by the Volume of Sewer Discharge in hundred cubic feet (HCF). The Sewer Rate is determined by the strength of the discharge (Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS)).

The Sewer Service Charge is calculated as follows:

FSC	+	VCC	=	Sewer Service Charge

FSC = Based on the water meter size
VCC = Sewer Rate ($/HCF) x Volume of Sewer Discharge (HCF)

The Sewer Rate is subject to change. Said change is usually necessitated by the increase in the cost of wastewater treatment and the maintenance of the City's sewer collection system. The Sewer Rate is reviewed on a yearly basis.

SEWER SERVICE VARIANCE FEES

The owner or occupant of any premises requesting a variance from the sewer service charges pursuant to the provisions of this section and the rules and regulations approved by resolution of the City Council shall pay a fee in the sum of $150.00 to cover the cost of investigation of said request; provided, however, that no fee shall be charged for a request for total exemption from the sewer service charge. In addition, a special handling charge to cover the cost of billing and inspection to be paid per building may be established in the resolution granting the variance, provided that the minimum such charge shall be in the sum of $3.75.

INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER DISCHARGE

The fee for an initial, annual renewal, or amended industrial wastewater discharge permit shall be based upon the Industrial User (IU) permit type. The IU permit types are naming conventions originating from the City of San Diego's Industrial Wastewater Discharge Control Program (Program).

1. Types of Industrial User (IU) Permits – The IU permit types are assigned through the City of San Diego's Industrial Wastewater Discharge Control Program. The Program generally defines a SIU in accordance with Federal regulations, as an Industrial User that:

- Is subject to federal categorical pretreatment standards under 40 Code of Regulations (CFR) 403
- Any other industrial discharger that:
  - Discharges an average of 25,000 gallons per day or more of process wastewater to the publicly owned treatment works.
  - For groundwater remediation sites, the presence of free product or discharges of >14,000 gallons per day have "reasonable potential" and are regulated as SIUs.

SIU – Standard	Not complex
SIU – Complex	Typically includes production based, education campuses, hospitals, or facilities with 3 or more sewer connections.
Non-SIU / Categorical Process	Class 2C, 3C, 4C, 2Z, 3Z, & 4Z facilities with a non-discharging categorical process
Enhanced Source Control	Includes non-SIU facilities that do not also have non-discharging categorical process and for which local requirements have been established or are required by the Pure Water NPDES permit adopted May 2020.

2. Annual Permit Fee (in dollars)

	Starting Date			
Permit Type	July 1, 2022	July 1, 2023	July 1, 2024	July 1, 2025
SIU-Standard	2,250	4,500	6,749	8,999
SIU-Complex	7,476	14,952	22,427	29,903
Non-SIU/ Categorical	1,319	2,639	3,958	5,277
Enhanced Source Control	651	1,302	1,952	2,603

An administrative fee of $25 will be included in each bill in addition to the fee for each permit type to cover bill assembly, review and approval.

3. Compliance Charges

Industries not in compliance with industrial wastewater discharge permit requirements shall pay a fee to recover the full cost including overhead of enforcing compliance.

STORM DRAINS

1. Storm Drain fees

In addition to other fees, assessments, or charges provided by the City code or otherwise, the owner or occupant of any parcels of real property which parcel is connected to the wastewater system of the City and to a wastewater system maintained by Sweetwater Authority, the Otay Municipal Water District, or the California-American Water Company, shall pay a storm drain fee as follows:

Single family
Monthly.....$0.70

Multi-Family, Commercial, Industrial
Monthly.....$0.06/HCF
Maximum, per month $500