



PROPOSITION 218 NOTICE

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON PROPOSED SEWER RATE ADJUSTMENT
COUNTY SERVICE AREA NO. 34 (EL RIO)

HEARING DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 10:30 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 for County Service Area No. 34 (CSA 34). The County of Ventura Water and Sanitation Department (Department) has been proudly providing administration, operations, and maintenance of the sewer services for the El Rio, Strickland Tract, and the Juvenile Justice Center areas. Sewage from the El Rio Sewer Collection System is pumped to the City of Oxnard for wastewater treatment and disposal.

On January 1, 2008, California Code of Regulations, Section 3934, "prohibited new septic systems and discharges from existing septic systems into the Oxnard Forebay areas". To help the property owners in the unincorporated area of El Rio with meeting regulations, CSA 34 was formed and constructed a sewer collection system funded by El Rio Sewer Project (Project). Project costs approximately \$35M for this public sewer system, offset by \$26 million in county, state, and federal grants. Additionally, the residential property owners incurred approximately \$13 million to pay for Oxnard sewer connection fees (SCFs), CSA 34's SCFs, construction of sewer laterals to connect to the public sewer system, and abandonment of the old septic systems. All phases were completed in April 2011. To date, 99% of CSA 34 properties are connected to the sewer collection system.

WHY ARE RATE ADJUSTMENTS REQUIRED?

Annually, as part of the budget process, the sewer rate is reviewed to determine if adjustments are needed to accommodate projected expenses. This year, the Department completed a comprehensive rate study to identify the most equitable method for proportionally allocating the projected costs of wastewater services among all customers.

For this fiscal year, rates are based on the actual cost of providing service, as determined by an independent financial consulting firm, and will be effective July 1, 2026. The primary reason for the sewer rate adjustments is to build up a fund balance to improve the Montgomery Lift Station to ensure uninterrupted sewer service to CSA 34 and keep up with inflation:

- To meet the increasing costs related to fuel, labor, materials, and electrical power.
- To replace aging infrastructure by planning, designing, and constructing a more efficient, reliable, and sustainable wastewater collection and conveyance system.
- To pay the increasing costs of wastewater treatment by the City of Oxnard.
- To build a fund balance that covers the cost of repairs due to natural disasters, match grant funding opportunities, and build a fund balance to improve the Montgomery Lift Station.
- To offset Increasing costs to comply with Evolving Regulatory and Lab Requirements.

To reduce the cost of collections, the sewer charges are collected through the annual general County tax roll. A report has been prepared to identify which parcels benefit from the services provided by the Department and list each by Assessor’s Parcel Number. The annual amount of the sewer service charge for each parcel 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 before the public hearing.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT AND PROPOSED RATES?

CSA 34 Service Charge	CURRENT FY 2026	PROPOSED FY 2027
Monthly per ERU*	\$42.25	\$45.63
Annually per ERU	\$507.00	\$547.56
* Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) is the basis from which sewer demands service classifications are calculated; a single-family residence is one unit.		
Non-residential ERU calculated based on Rules and Regulations (publicworks.venturacounty.gov/wsd/publicationsanddocuments/)		

HOW DO YOU PARTICIPATE?

If you wish to oppose the proposed sewer rate adjustments, you must submit a written protest by mail before the public hearing at the following address: Water and Sanitation Department, Attn: CSA 34 Sewer Rate Protest, 6767 Spring Road, P.O. Box 250, Moorpark, CA 91320-0250. 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 on July 1, 2025, 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. Any verbal protests unaccompanied by a written protest or facsimile (fax) protest will not be counted. If you choose to submit your protest by regular mail, please allow sufficient time for the mail to be delivered to the Department before the public hearing; 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 on a majority of the total number of parcels. Once tallied, protests are disclosable public records.

Per section 53759 of the Government Code, effective January 1, 2022, there is a 120-day statute of limitations for challenging any new, increased, or extended fee or charge from the effective date or the date of the final passage, adoption, or approval of the ordinance, resolution, or motion, whichever is later.