

Sunset Beach Sanitary District

P.O. Box 1185
Sunset Beach, CA 90742-1185
(562) 493-9932

NOTICE OF PROPOSED INCREASE OF TRASH, SEWER SERVICE, AND RESTAURANT SEWAGE CLEANING FEE

THIS NOTICE PROVIDES IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT A PROPOSED PROPERTY-RELATED FEE AND THE MAJORITY PROTEST PROCESS

THE SUNSET BEACH SANITARY DISTRICT

Properties within the boundaries of the Sunset Beach Sanitary District (the “District”) receive services from the District for the collection, treatment and disposal of sewage and trash. The District is primarily funded by revenue from a share of the County of Orange property tax basic levy, as well as the service fees charged for each residential and commercial unit which is collected on the annual tax bill. There are three components of this service fee; the trash pick-up fee of \$240 per residential and commercial unit, the sewer transport and treatment fee of \$200 per each residential and commercial unit, and sewage cleaning fee of \$475 per restaurant unit. The total service fee charged to each parcel is based on the number of units assigned. Commercial sewer units are calculated based on water consumption and the sewage cleaning fee is only charged to restaurants.

FEES BEING CONSIDERED FOR INCREASE

The District’s annual per-unit service fees have not been increased since 2016. **The District is proposing to increase the annual trash fee by \$60 (from \$240 per unit to \$300 per unit), the annual sewer transport and treatment fee by \$100 (from \$200 per unit to \$300 per unit), and the annual restaurant sewage cleaning fee by \$150 (from \$475 per unit to \$625 per unit).**

The total service fee for a residential or commercial unit is currently \$440 (\$240 for trash pick-up and \$200 for sewer transport and treatment). If the proposed increase is approved, the total service fee for a residential or commercial unit is estimated at \$600 (\$300 for trash pick-up and \$300 for sewer transport and treatment). The total per-unit service fee for a restaurant is estimated at \$1,225 (\$300 for trash pick-up (if no dumpster), \$300 per unit based on water usage for sewer transport and treatment, and \$625 for sewer cleaning fee).

The District’s cost of service is among the lowest in the area in comparison to other agencies within Orange County. Properties within the District do not pay the \$358 (\$371 in 2024-25) service fee levied by the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD). In addition, properties within the District do not pay the trash and sewage charges collected on water bills by the Cities, which average more than \$450 per home per year. The proposed total service fee of \$600 for a residential unit within the District is more than 25% less when compared to fees paid by property owners outside the District (approximately \$821), for the same services. Furthermore, the District collects garbage **twice** a week, while City agencies collect garbage only once per week.

BASIS UPON WHICH THE AMOUNT OF THE PROPOSED FEE WAS CALCULATED

Nearly all of the sewage facilities were built in 1935-36, and are now more than 80-years old. The District has made continuous repairs to the facilities to maintain a safe and reliable system. The majority of the District’s expenses are paid to other agencies for contracted services, such as sewage treatment. These costs increase each year with inflation and the added cost of new requirements, such as full secondary

treatment for sewage and changes to contractor prevailing wage requirements. The proposed increase will help provide funding for high-priority sewage facilities replacements and upgrades needed to support the continued provision of safe and reliable sewer service. Trash Fees are being increased in order to cover per unit fees charged by the District's contracted trash collector.

PUBLIC HEARING AND MAJORITY PROTEST PROCESS

The Board of Directors of the District (the “Board”) will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the Sunset Beach Women’s Club, 16812 Bayview Drive, Sunset Beach (corner of Broadway and Bayview). The Board will then consider all written and oral comments regarding the proposed sewer transport and treatment fee, and may adopt, the fees described in this notice. However, if **written protests** are received that represent a majority of the affected parcels, the proposed fee adjustment will not be approved. Oral comments at the public hearing will not qualify as a formal protest unless accompanied by a written protest. Only one written protest will be counted per identified parcel which receives sewer service. The Board of Directors will receive a final tabulation of all written protests received by the District at the hearing. Written protests must be received prior to the close of the public hearing, which may be delivered by U.S. Mail or in person at the public hearing. Written protests are being mailed to each property owner for parcels within the District with instructions on how to submit. Written protests must contain the address, parcel number, and include the name and original signature of the property owner submitting the protest. **Send written protests to Sunset Beach Sanitary District, P.O. Box 1185, Sunset Beach CA 90742.**

EFFECTIVE DATE FOR PROPOSED FEES

If a majority of the affected property owners submit protests, the proposed sewer transport and treatment fee will not be imposed; otherwise the fee will become effective on July 1, 2024, following adoption by the District’s Board.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Should you have any questions regarding this Public Notice, please contact the Assessor for the Sunset Beach Sanitary District, Willdan Financial Services at (866) 807-6864.