

Notice of Public Hearing

2025/26 Sewer Service Charge Changes



701 Ocean Street, Room 410
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Phone: 831-454-2160

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SANTA CRUZ, CA
PERMIT NO. 223

TO: CURRENT RESIDENT or:



**Leer en
español aquí**

IMPORTANT SEWER RATE INFORMATION ENCLOSED

Freedom County Sanitation District (FCSD)

(831) 454-2160

dpwsanitation@santacruzcounty.us

<http://www.dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/Home/SewerWater.aspx>



The charges included in this notice are based on service charge studies prepared for the FCSD and follow the Revenue Program Guidelines of the State Water Resources Control Board. If you are unsure which user group(s) apply to your parcel, please call (831) 454-2160. A revenue study was formulated to calculate these charges for sewer service and is available upon request from Public Works, Sanitation Engineering section, at:
701 Ocean Street, Room 410, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Never Flush Wipes Down The Toilet!

"Flushable" wipes clog sewer pipes.
Even though the packaging may say
"flushable" - **THEY AREN'T!**



Sewer Service Charges - Notice of Public Hearing

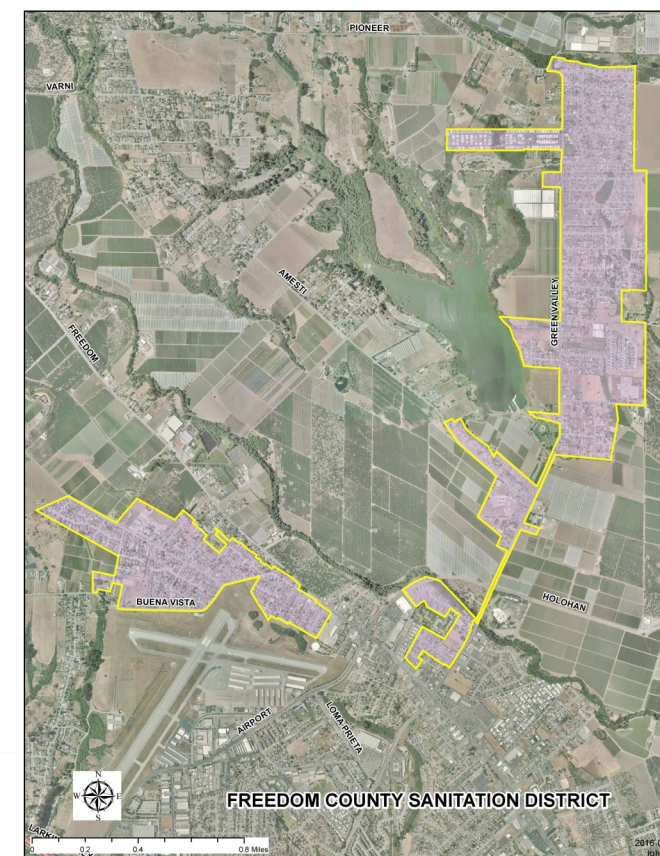
Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Freedom County Sanitation District

Who is the Freedom County Sanitation District (FCSD)? We are the men and women who work on operating, maintaining and improving the vital sewer infrastructure that ensures that our sewers flow properly.

Information about FCSD

- The Freedom County Sanitation District (FCSD) is a non-profit public agency providing sewage collection, treatment and disposal service to the Freedom area.
- The FCSD customers generate approximately 1.35 million gallons of sewage a day.
- Sewage collected by the FCSD is transported through its sewer lines to the wastewater treatment plant that is owned and operated by the City of Watsonville, located on Beach Street.
- This treatment plant has a capacity to treat a total of approximately 16.5 million gallons of wastewater per day to the quality level that meets the stringent Environmental Protection Agency and California State standards for discharge into the Monterey Bay.
- FCSD pays for a portion of the treatment costs for the City of Watsonville wastewater treatment plant. These costs are calculated yearly based on the costs incurred from our FCSD's transported wastewater.
- Maintenance and improvement projects are funded through a combination of sewer service charges, grants, loans and FCSD reserves. Recently FCSD secured \$9 Million in grant and loan funds from the USDA and rehabilitated over 13,000 linear feet of sewer mains and over 50 manholes. Another \$6 Million grant from the State Water Resources Control Board funded the replacement or rehabilitation of nearly 10,000 more linear feet of sewer mains and 30 more manholes.



Freedom County Sanitation District (FCSD)

Your Sewer Service Provider

The Freedom County Sanitation District (FCSD) is committed to providing excellent service to the community. To ensure that we protect the environment, public health, and the integrity of our system, the infrastructure needs constant maintenance and updating. In order to continue to maintain and replace this aging sewer system, it is necessary to increase sewer service charges for the fiscal year 2025/26.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Freedom County Sanitation District, has scheduled May 6, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. or thereafter, for a meeting at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, California to allow public input and comments, if any, and to consider adoption of an ordinance establishing the proposed sewer charges shown below.

These charges would be effective July 1, 2025.

The County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Questions regarding accommodation under the ADA should be directed to the Clerk of the Board at (831) 454-2323. As a courtesy to those affected, please attend the meeting smoke and scent free.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FREEDOM COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT
By: Chief Deputy Clerk

Current Rates and Proposed Changes

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS				
User Group ¹	Current Charges		Proposed Charges	Proposed Increase
Residential ²	\$882.76/year		\$908.46/year	\$2.14/month
Multiple Family ³	\$576.66/year		\$591.50/year	\$1.24/month
Mobile Home	\$890.42/year		\$916.40/year	\$2.16/month
COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS				
User Group ¹	Current Charges		Proposed Charges	Proposed Changes
	Flat Rate	+ Volume Rate	Flat Rate + Volume Rate	Flat Rate + Volume Rate
Commercial Customers	\$198.92/year	+ \$7.84/HCF	\$197.62/year + \$8.12/HCF	-\$0.11/month + \$0.02/HCF
SCHOOLS				
User Group ¹	Current Charges		Proposed Charges	Proposed Changes
	Flat Rate	+ Volume Rate	Flat Rate + Volume Rate	Flat Rate + Volume Rate
All Schools	\$198.92/year	+ \$18.90/ADA	\$197.62/year + \$19.57/ADA	-\$0.11/month + \$0.06ADA

HCF = Hundred Cubic Feet of Water

ADA = Average Daily Attendance

¹The FCSD does not apply sewer rates to vacant land or facilities on septic tanks.

²Residential refers to houses.

³Multiple Family group refers to condos, townhouses, accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and apartments.

How Can I Participate?

The Freedom County Sanitation District welcomes your participation and input throughout the process as the Board of Directors considers the charge increases explained in this notice. If you have any questions or comments about the proposed charges, you can call (831) 454-2160.

Any property owner(s) within the District, may present verbal and/ or written protest to the Board of Directors on the proposed charges, and the Board will consider all oral and written protests.

In order to be counted, protests must be in writing and include the following:

- The service address, the assessor’s parcel number, a statement of protest, and the name and signature of the individual qualified to protest the charges.

Only one written protest will be counted for each individual parcel. Written protests must be received prior to the conclusion of the public hearing. Mail to: Departmental Analyst, Freedom County Sanitation District, Governmental Center, 701 Ocean Street, Room 410, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

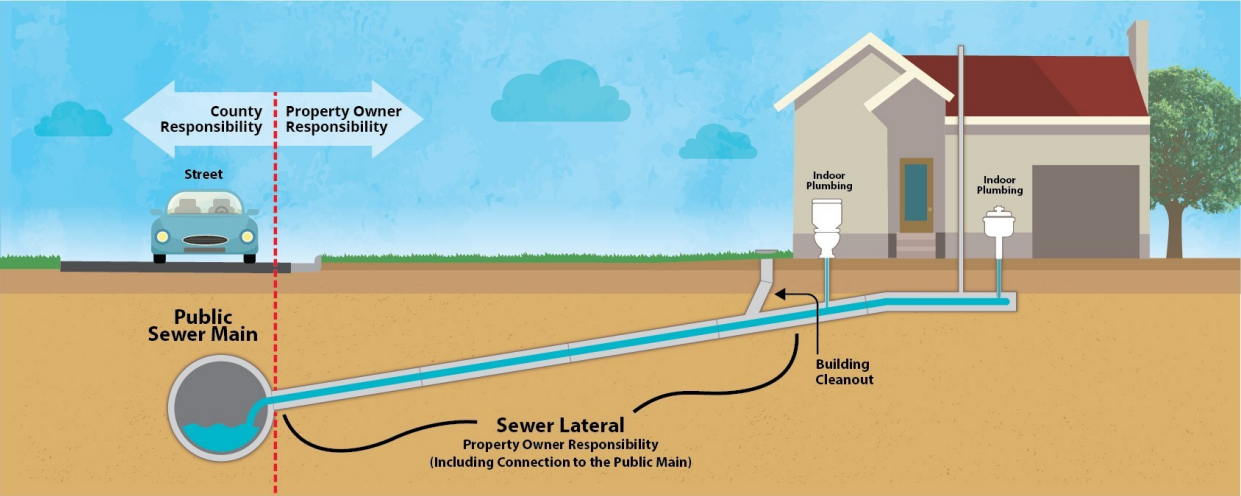
Your Sewer Lateral Responsibilities

Did you know:

- You are responsible for the maintenance, inspections, and repairs of your private sewer lateral.
- Video inspections of your lateral and cleanout installation are required:
 - ⇒ Prior to property sale
 - ⇒ With remodel / addition permit
 - ⇒ When you connect to an existing lateral

For more information, please visit the lateral section located at:

<https://cdi.santacruzcountycalifornia.gov/PublicWorks/SewerWater/SewerLateralResources.aspx>



Owners of private sewer collection systems (with four or more units) are required to inspect and report to the Sanitation District on the condition of their sewers. Non-compliance may result in penalties. Questions may be directed to District Staff.

Avoid Sewage Spills and Unnecessary Damage

Notify us at (831) 477-3907 of any sewer spills or odors.

Pursuant to FCSD Code Section 3.04.250, it is the property owner’s responsibility to install and maintain an overflow or backflow protective device on your sewer lateral when any building’s lowest floor elevation is less than one foot above the rim elevation of the nearest upstream manhole. For further information regarding backflow devices, please contact (831) 454-2160.