

BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE FREEDOM COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. _____

On the motion of Director:
Duly seconded by Director:

The following resolution is adopted:

RESOLUTION ADOPTING FREEDOM COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT
SEWER SERVICE CHARGES, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

WHEREAS, Freedom County Sanitation District (District) owns and operates a sewer collection system serving the community of Freedom and portions of unincorporated Watsonville; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to operate said sewer system in the most efficient and cost effective manner; and

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 61115 provides that the District may establish, revise and collect rates and other charges for the services and facilities furnished by it; and

WHEREAS, existing District sewer rates are not adequate to fund the operating, maintenance, and capital improvement costs of the utilities; and

WHEREAS, rate adjustments are necessary because the District's sewer utility relies primarily on revenues from service charges to fund the costs of providing service, and therefore sewer rates must be set at levels adequate to fund the costs of operating and maintaining the District's systems to support safe and reliable service; and

WHEREAS, sewer rate adjustments are also necessary to: a) support funding for capital improvements primarily needed to repair, replace, and/or upgrade aging infrastructure; and b) to help keep revenues in line with future cost inflation; and

WHEREAS, the sewer rates to be implemented by this Resolution cover no more than the cost that the District incurs to provide sewer services as detailed in the 2025/26 Revenue Study prepared by Hornberger Engineering and presented to the Board on March 11, 2025; and

Resolution _____

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements of Proposition 218, official notice of the proposed and sewer rate adjustments and future annual inflationary rate adjustments, and the date, time and location of a public hearing was mailed to each record owner and customer of record, on March 20, 2025, 45 days prior to a public hearing scheduled for May 6, 2025; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was conducted by the Board of Directors on May 6, 2025, at which time all interested persons were afforded an opportunity to be heard on matters pertaining to the proposed and sewer rate adjustments and future annual inflationary adjustments, and to submit written protests; and

WHEREAS, after tabulating the written and not withdrawn protests, it was determined that a majority protest does not exist for the proposed sewer rates or future annual inflationary rate adjustments to the sewer rates; and

WHEREAS, the approval of this Resolution is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(8).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED by the Board of Directors of the Freedom County Sanitation District that the sewer rates, as provided in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, with an annual increase equal to the consumer price index unless changed by Resolution of the Board, are hereby adopted and shall become effective starting July 1, 2025, at which point they will replace previously adopted rates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that future rates are subject to annual review by the Board of Directors prior to implementation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Freedom County Sanitation District, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this ____ day of _____, 20____, by the following vote:

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSENT:
- ABSTAIN:

Felipe Hernandez
Chair of said Board

ATTEST: _____

Resolution _____

Juliette Rezzato
Clerk of the Board

Approved as to Form:

Signed by:
Michael De Smidt
77B7BAA5B324F0...

4/22/2025

Michael De Smidt
Office of the County Counsel

Attachment(s): Exhibit A – Rate Table

Exhibit A

<u>Type of Customer</u>	<u>Existing 2024/2025 Charges Per year</u>	<u>Proposed 2025/2026 Charges Per year</u>
Single Family Residential	\$882.76	\$908.46
Multi-Family/Apartments	\$576.66	\$591.50
Mobil Homes	\$890.42	\$916.40
Commercial Facilities Flat Rate	\$198.92	\$197.62
Commercial (Per HCF)	\$7.84	\$8.12
Schools Flat Rate	\$198.92	\$197.62
Schools (Per ADA)	\$18.90	\$19.57

Certificate Of Completion

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Michael.DeSmidt@santacruzcountyca.gov

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Santa Cruz County Sanitation District

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Timestamp

Notary Events

Signature

Timestamp

Envelope Summary Events

Status

Timestamps

Envelope Sent

Hashed/Encrypted

4/16/2025 2:42:35 PM

Certified Delivered

Security Checked

4/22/2025 8:59:51 AM

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4/22/2025 9:00:48 AM

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Payment Events

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Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure

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