

PROPOSED SEWER SERVICE CHARGE RATES FAQs

Is this a new charge or fee?

No, it is not a new charge. It's been part of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) utility bill since 1972. Revenue from the Sewer Service Charge covers the costs of the City of Los Angeles' wastewater operations and maintenance, capital improvements, and debt coverage of the wastewater conveyance and treatment system. This proposed rate adjustment is necessary to protect Angelenos' health and the environment. The proposal is to resume the steady rate increases that were paused in 2020 because of the pandemic. Assistance will be available for households in need.

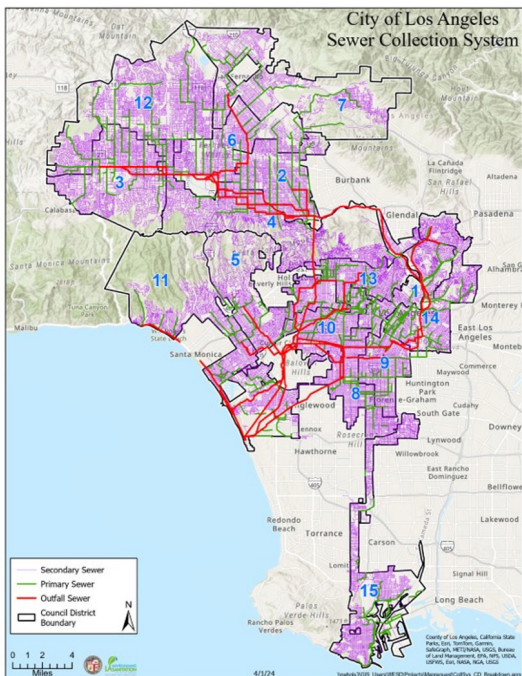
What does the increase in my Sewer Service Charge fee go towards?

Your fee will go toward protecting Angelenos' health and the environment by making upgrades and repairs to LA's aging wastewater system and its reclamation plants. This is the system that safely transports wastewater from your homes, businesses, schools, and community facilities to where it is processed at LA's four water reclamation plants for reuse or safe discharge.

Proposed City of LA Sewer Service Charge Rates

	CURRENT	FALL 2024	MAR 2025	JULY 2025	JAN 2026	JULY 2026	JULY 2027	JULY 2028
Rates below apply to City of Los Angeles Sewer Service Charge customers								
\$/HCF*	\$5.80	\$7.08	\$7.56	\$8.48	\$9.28	\$10.13	\$11.01	\$11.96
Rates below apply to City of Los Angeles Low-Income Sewer Service Charge customers								
\$/HCF*	\$4.00	\$4.89	\$5.22	\$5.85	\$6.41	\$6.99	\$7.60	\$8.25
Rates below apply to industrial customers monitored by the Industrial Waste Management Division								
Low-Strength SSC - \$/HCF*	\$4.02	\$4.15	\$4.38	\$5.01	\$5.41	\$6.00	\$6.50	\$7.12
Biochemical Oxygen Demand \$/lb. of BOD	\$0.60	\$0.73	\$0.80	\$0.86	\$0.96	\$1.02	\$1.10	\$1.17
Total Suspended Solids \$/lb. of TSS	\$0.61	\$0.64	\$0.70	\$0.74	\$0.83	\$0.86	\$0.92	\$0.97
Rates below apply to customers that receive wastewater collection services from the City of Los Angeles and treatment services from the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts								
Sewage Conveyance Charge \$/HCF*	\$0.87	\$1.89	\$1.95	\$2.25	\$2.38	\$2.51	\$2.63	\$2.91
Sewage Conveyance Charge Low-Income \$/HCF*	\$0.60	\$1.30	\$1.35	\$1.55	\$1.64	\$1.73	\$1.82	\$2.01

- *\$/HCF = Cost (rate) per hundred cubic feet of water used. 1 HCF is equal to 748 gallons.
- Low-Strength = wastewater that contains BOD or TSS concentrations less than the designated BOD and TSS values.
- Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) = the amount of oxygen needed to degrade the organic matter in the wastewater.
- Total Suspended Solids (TSS) = total amount of suspended or "floating" particles in the wastewater flow.
- Sewage Conveyance Charge = this is a charge for the use of LA sewers only and excludes LA's wastewater treatment systems.



Many pipelines need to be repaired or replaced and improvement projects for the sewers and treatment facilities are underway to continue making sure we protect public health and that we are safeguarding our environment, including our waterways, beaches, and ocean.

In the next five years, the City will invest in hundreds of projects citywide, with anticipated costs exceeding \$3 billion.

Projects will be launched to build, enhance, and replace critical pumping plants that prevent sewage overflows. Modernizing the North Outfall Sewer – the backbone of LA's 6,700-mile sewer system – will be completed after two decades of construction projects, ensuring its service for generations to come. Water reclamation plants will prepare for the resiliency needs for the future of Los Angeles.

Do you have other questions?

Send us an email at sansscrates2024@lacity.org



If the rates are adopted, how much will my bill go up?

You can estimate your future bills with our online bill calculator at www.LACitySan.org/rates. Look on your last LADWP for the Sewer Service Charge to find your HCF volume. (HCF stands for Hundred Cubic Feet.) You will need the HCF volume for the online bill calculator. This is where you will find it on your utility bill:

Sewer Charges		SA # : 6341141523	
BILLING PERIOD	DAYS	SEWER RATE SCHEDULE	
10/27/23 - 12/29/23	63	Sewer Service Charge - Residential	
Sewer Service Charge*		11.82762 HCF x \$5.80000/HCF	68.60
Sewer Service EZ-SAVE Program*			-21.27
		Total Sewer Charges	\$ 47.33

How will these rates affect renters and landlords?

Some home renters pay a Sewer Service Charge through a bill from LADWP, and others have water and sewer services included in their rent. If you rent and pay LADWP for sewer services, the new rates would apply to you too. If your water and sewer services are included in your rent or in your Home Owners Association (HOA) dues for example, your landlord or property manager would pay the City directly for sewer service to the property.

Some but not all Los Angeles rental properties are subject to the City’s Rent Stabilization Ordinance, which regulates rents and evictions. Renters’ situations vary throughout Los Angeles including whether landlords could pass any or all rate increases on to their tenants. For more information, go to: <https://www.housing2.lacity.org/residents/rso-overview>

What financial assistance is there for Angelenos in need?

Low-Income wastewater customers can apply to the EZ-SAVE Program to save on their Sewer Service Charge bills. City of Los Angeles residents, including those who receive wastewater service from the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts are eligible to apply. Eligible Low-Income customers currently receive a 31% discount off the Sewer Service Charge rate up to 18 HCF (18 hundred cubic feet) of water used bi-monthly. This Low-Income discount will continue.

All customers can convert their bi-monthly LADWP bill to a monthly billing cycle through the Level-Pay program. There is no income eligibility requirement to make this change.

To find out if you are eligible for the EZ-SAVE program or to change your billing cycle through the “Level Pay” program, go to: <https://www.ladwp.com/financialassistance>

Why does the City need to adjust the Sewer Service Charge rates now?

Steady increases in Sewer Service Charge rates were paused in 2020 because of the pandemic. Gradual rate increases beginning in Fall 2024 are critically needed for LA to invest in infrastructure projects that protect public health and the environment.



North Outfall Sewer Rehabilitation