

RECEIVED  
CITY OF SALINAS

AUG 28 2025

CITY CLERK

August 25, 2025

Objection APN 002-923-008

City of Salinas  
200 Lincoln Avenue  
Salinas, CA 93901

Attention: City Clerk

Subject: Protest of Sanitary Sewer Service Rate Increase

Reference: (a) City of Salinas Sewer Rate Study, prepared by DTA for the City of Salinas,  
dated April 11, 2025  
(b) Proposition 218

Gentlemen,

I protest the proposed sewer rate adjustments. Reference (a) is not a detailed report as required by Reference (b), SEC 4, (b). The subject report fails to provide any data to support project (Capital) costs, the main driver of the proposed increase in rates. Examples from Reference (a), Table C-1: the Cesar Chavez Park project is \$13,172,613; the CIPP Line Sewers project is \$22,987,759; the CCTV Sewers project is \$12,841,286. Tables C-2 and C-3 in Reference (a) have additional projects listed with costs. Table C-4 in Reference (a) shows the cumulative costs of High Priority Projects to be \$114,822,258. How was each project cost developed/established? Reference (a) focuses primarily on how overall costs breakdown to rate payers over a 10-year period in great detail. However, the main driver and heart of the proposed rate increase, project (Capital) costs, are completely ignored. This is unacceptable and not a detailed report in compliance to Reference (b) as it fails to address and provide how project costs were developed, the main driver of this rate increase. Furthermore, where is justification for the "reasonable estimate of future O&M costs" shown as 7.5% per year; page 7 of Reference (a). This 7.5% increase is on top of the 2% annual escalation included. Why the need for a newly established \$2,000,000 O&M reserve? Reference (a) totally fails to justify how costs were developed and, in many cases, needed.

Reference (b), SEC 4, (b), further states the report is to be prepared by a registered professional engineer certified by the State of California. Reference (a) has no signature nor are there any references to individuals that prepared the report and their qualifications.

Until parcel owners/rate payers can review a rate increase supported by data to justify project (Capital) costs, the main cost driver, no rate increase should be allowed or approved.

Sincerely,

Parcels # 153-464-018-000 and 002-923-008-000

City of Salinas  
City Clerk  
200 Lincoln Av  
Salinas, CA 93901

August 8, 2025 RECEIVED  
CITY OF SALINAS  
AUG 14 2025  
CITY CLERK

**Subject: Protest Against Disproportionate Sewer Rate Increase Proposal**

Salinas City Council and Public Works Department,

This communication constitutes a written objection to the City's proposed sewer rates. I formally protest the proposed sewer rate increase for residential customers—from \$5.45 to \$16.35 per month—as part of the new fee structure. The magnitude and inequity of this increase are deeply concerning, especially when compared to the significantly lower rates proposed for commercial entities.

**Residential Burden vs. Commercial Rates**

This structure appears inconsistent with principles of proportional usage and environmental impact. It defies logic that a single household is expected to bear higher costs than businesses with far greater operational activity.

- Residents: \$16.35 monthly (a nearly 200% increase)
- Businesses such as a gym with 500 members, instructional facilities, photo developers, laboratories, garage repair shops, and paint shops—each with multiple employees and far greater wastewater output (for every 10 employees) —are slated to pay just \$12.75.

**Lack of Transparency and Public Input**

- The methodology behind this rate distribution has not been clearly presented to the public.
- Have usage data and output volumes been properly studied to inform this decision?
- No meeting details for the Zoom meeting mentioned in the May 2025 and Jul 2025 notices.

**Cost vs. Usage Disparity**

- Please provide detailed wastewater volume comparisons between household and commercial sources.
- Clarify how the proposed rates reflect actual system strain.

### **Socioeconomic Inequity**

- This increase is especially harsh for low- and fixed-income households.
- A uniform residential rate ignores differences in household size and income.
- Consider implementing income-based rate adjustments, or a tiered structure for equity.

### **Community Impact**

- Higher living costs may dissuade new residents, reduce property values, and overburden longtime citizens.
- There's concern about affordability, especially among seniors, families with children, and disabled citizens.

### **Alternative Solutions**

- Has the City explored state or federal grants to fund infrastructure?
- Have audits been performed to identify cost-saving measures before imposing steep rates?
- Could commercial rates be more accurately scaled to reflect business size and usage?

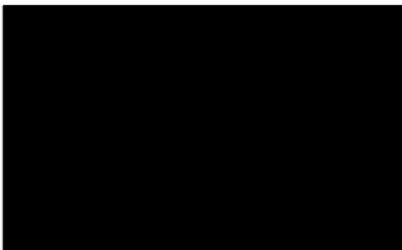
### **Respectful Resolution**

I urge the City Council to:

- Delay implementation until full data and justification are transparently shared
- Consider a fairer, usage-based rate schedule
- Provide the meeting details for the Zoom meeting mentioned in the May 2025 and Jul 2025 notices.

Residents are not opposed to supporting necessary infrastructure. But fairness, transparency, and affordability must guide decisions that impact our daily lives. I appreciate your attention and hope you will reconsider the proposed structure in pursuit of a more equitable solution.

Sincerely,



APN: 261634036000

City of Salinas  
200 Lincoln Ave  
Salinas, CA 93901

August 4, 2025

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CITY OF SALINAS

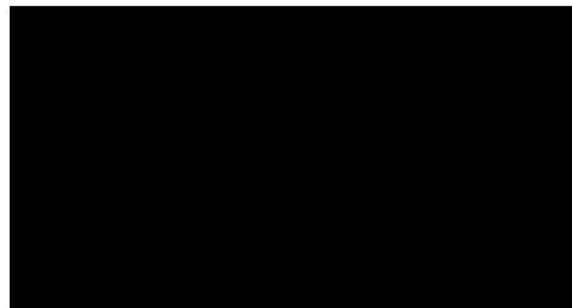
AUG 04 2025

CITY CLERK

Subj: Sewer Increase Rate.

1. I Protest the new proposal increase for Salinas Sewer rate.
2. Increases should be based on Flow Rate of a residence. That would be more fair to all residents.
3. Recommend the City work with CA Water and Alco to do this properly now.

In Service to Others



ATTN: Public Works

Please/Text to all Council Members,  
City Attorney and City Manager.

Thank you.



  
RECEIVED  
CITY OF SALINAS

JUL 29 2025

CITY CLERK

7/22/2025

City Clerk  
City of Salinas  
200 Lincoln Avenue  
Salinas, CA 93901

**Subject: Formal Protest Against Proposed Increase in EDU Rate**

Dear City Clerk,

I am writing to formally protest the City of Salinas' proposed increase of the Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) rate from \$5.45 to \$16.35, along with the proposed 2% annual escalation.

As a resident of Salinas and a ratepayer directly affected by this change, I believe this proposal is both excessive and inequitable. The increase represents a nearly **200% jump** in the base rate, which is particularly burdensome for working families, small property owners, and fixed-income residents who are already grappling with rising costs across all sectors—utilities, fuel, housing, and groceries.

**Key concerns include:****1. Lack of clear justification:**

There is insufficient transparency regarding what specifically necessitates such a steep rate increase. Ratepayers deserve a detailed and itemized breakdown of infrastructure projects, maintenance plans, or regulatory requirements that would justify this shift.

**2. Economic pressure on residents:**

The city's proposal does not appear to account for the socioeconomic reality of many Salinas residents. According to recent census data, over **15% of Salinas residents live below the poverty line**, and housing costs already place a heavy burden on the majority of households.

**3. Uncapped escalations over time:**

While a 2% annual increase may sound modest, when compounded over a decade, this means residents will be paying over **50% more than the already-inflated \$16.35 rate**—without any accountability built in to reassess or adjust based on changing circumstances or cost efficiencies.

**4. Disproportionate impact on multifamily and rental properties:**

The EDU model already oversimplifies water usage and stormwater impact, and this sharp increase will unfairly impact high-density residential buildings, further fueling rent hikes and housing insecurity.

I urge the city to reconsider this increase and instead:

- Explore more gradual rate adjustments tied to actual project milestones.
- Pursue state and federal infrastructure grants to reduce the financial burden on residents.
- Offer greater transparency through public meetings, impact assessments, and stakeholder feedback sessions before any final decision is made.

Until these concerns are addressed, I must firmly oppose the proposed rate increase and escalation clause.







RECEIVED  
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JUL 29 2025

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7/22/2025

City Clerk  
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Salinas, CA 93901

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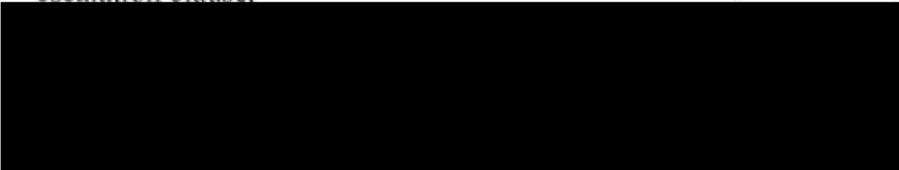
**Key concerns include:**

- 1. Lack of clear justification:**  
There is insufficient transparency regarding what specifically necessitates such a steep rate increase. Ratepayers deserve a detailed and itemized breakdown of infrastructure projects, maintenance plans, or regulatory requirements that would justify this shift.
- 2. Economic pressure on residents:**  
The city's proposal does not appear to account for the socioeconomic reality of many Salinas residents. According to recent census data, over **15% of Salinas residents live below the poverty line**, and housing costs already place a heavy burden on the majority of households.
- 3. Uncapped escalations over time:**  
While a 2% annual increase may sound modest, when compounded over a decade, this means residents will be paying over **50% more than the already-inflated \$16.35 rate**—without any accountability built in to reassess or adjust based on changing circumstances or cost efficiencies.
- 4. Disproportionate impact on multifamily and rental properties:**  
The EDU model already oversimplifies water usage and stormwater impact, and this sharp increase will unfairly impact high-density residential buildings, further fueling rent hikes and housing insecurity.

I urge the city to reconsider this increase and instead:

- Explore more gradual rate adjustments tied to actual project milestones.
- Pursue state and federal infrastructure grants to reduce the financial burden on residents.
- Offer greater transparency through public meetings, impact assessments, and stakeholder feedback sessions before any final decision is made.

Until these concerns are addressed, I must firmly oppose the proposed rate increase and escalation clause.







Account Number 15-005970

RECEIVED  
CITY OF SALINAS  
AUG 12 2025  
CITY CLERK

City Council  
City of Salinas  
July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Dear Council members,

I object to the proposed increased sewer rates. Like all Salinas residents, the current bimonthly fee is \$ 115.85 which is \$ 57.92 each month.

As indicated in your proposal of \$ 16.35 added to \$ 57.92 each month for FY 2025-26, the monthly cost would be \$ 74.27.

When \$ 16.35 divided by \$ 57.92 X 100 = 28.23 % increase for FY 2025-26.

There is no explanation for expenditure for such a high percentage of increase.

The \$ 16.68 increase for FY 2026-27 to \$ 74.27 which makes the cost of \$ 90.95 for each month.

When \$ 16.68 is divided by \$ 74.27 X 100 = 22.45 % of increase.

If approved by the city council, and by FY 2026-27, we would be paying nearly twice the cost of what we are paying today.

The percentage of the proposed increase is so rapid and aggressive with no accountability and no oversight.

There is no Sunset clause. How much longer that we continue to pay? When will it end? It is like sending a blank check with no date and to no end.

I have a small household with two occupants. It is unfair that I am paying the same amount as the other household of twelve people.

I sincerely hope that the City Council will navigate the hard facts and disapprove the proposed rate of increase.

I have faith in my city council. Faith don't make it easy. Faith makes it possible.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

8/12/25

Objection APN 004-321-040

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CITY OF SALINAS

SEP 09 2025

CITY CLERK

- PARCEL NO

According to the site map, no improvements are recommended for the above address area. Therefore the rate increase is in violation of Proposition 218, because it does not reasonably reflect the actual costs associated with serving that specific parcel or area.

Therefore I object to the proposed rate increase for the property at [REDACTED] Salinas California 93905

It should not be responsible for costs of the elsewhere Improvements or extensions recommended. Any relevant planned costs should be paid by the respective areas in need. As well as through municipal bonds that will be the responsibility of developers to repay , to be addressed at the time of planned development.

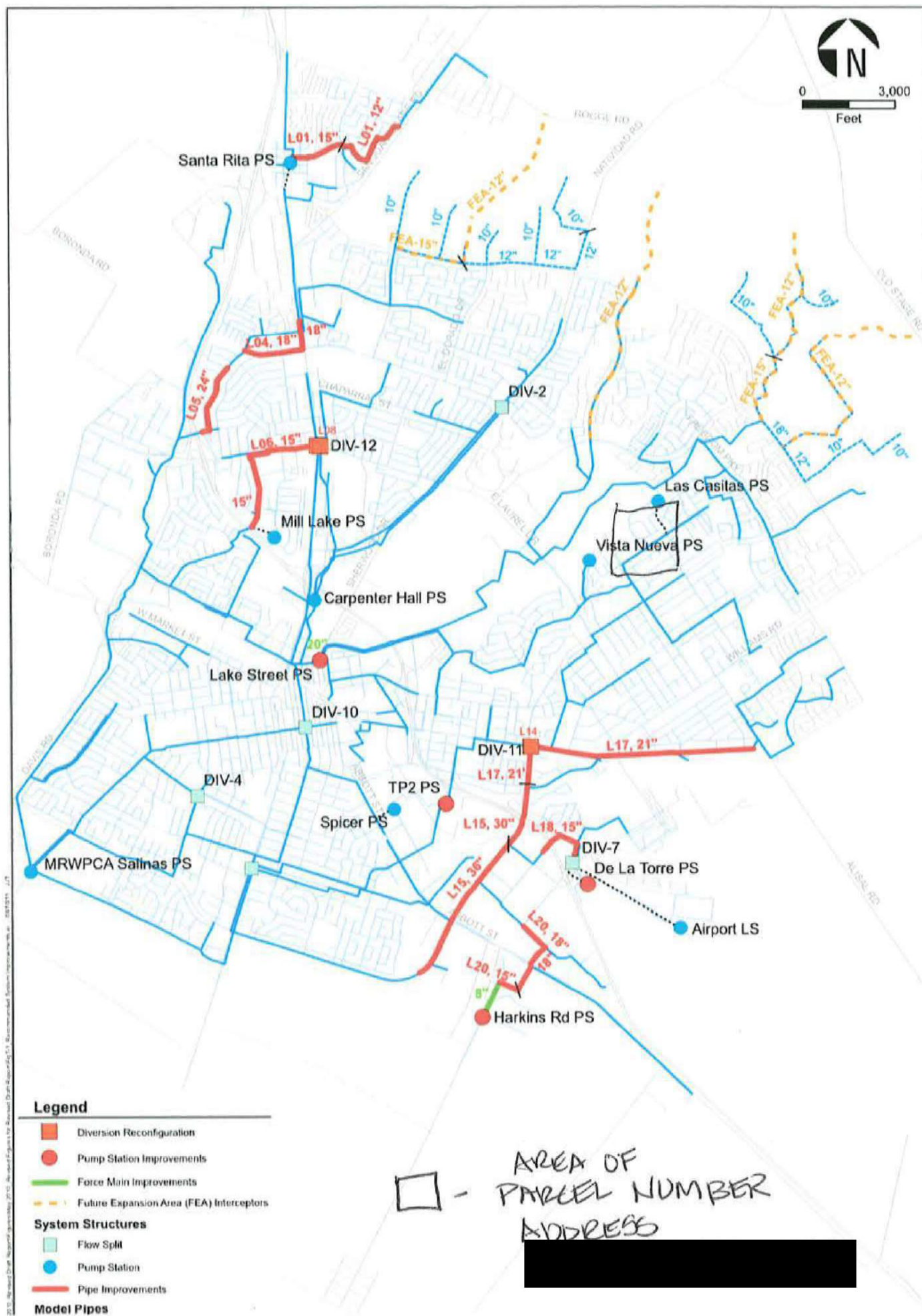
- According to Figure 7-1 The Recommended Sanitary Sewer System Improvements Salinas Sewer System Master Plan
- The property at [REDACTED] is in Existing Gravity Line with a existing pump station that are not in need of improvements and should have the maintenance funds existing from current rates

**I object to the City's proposed sewer rate increase. The proposed increase in sewer rates fails to comply with Proposition 218 in California because the increase violates certain fundamental requirements designed to protect taxpayers and property owners.**

- **Failure to Demonstrate Proportionality:** Under Proposition 218, a sewer rate increase must not exceed the *proportional cost* of providing the service to a particular property or customer. This means that the amount charged for sewer services should reasonably reflect the actual costs associated with serving that specific parcel or customer, and not be disproportionately higher to subsidize other customers or unrelated services.



0 3,000  
Feet





Existing Gravity Line  
Existing Forcemain  
Future Gravity Line  
System Pipes (not modeled)  
Streets

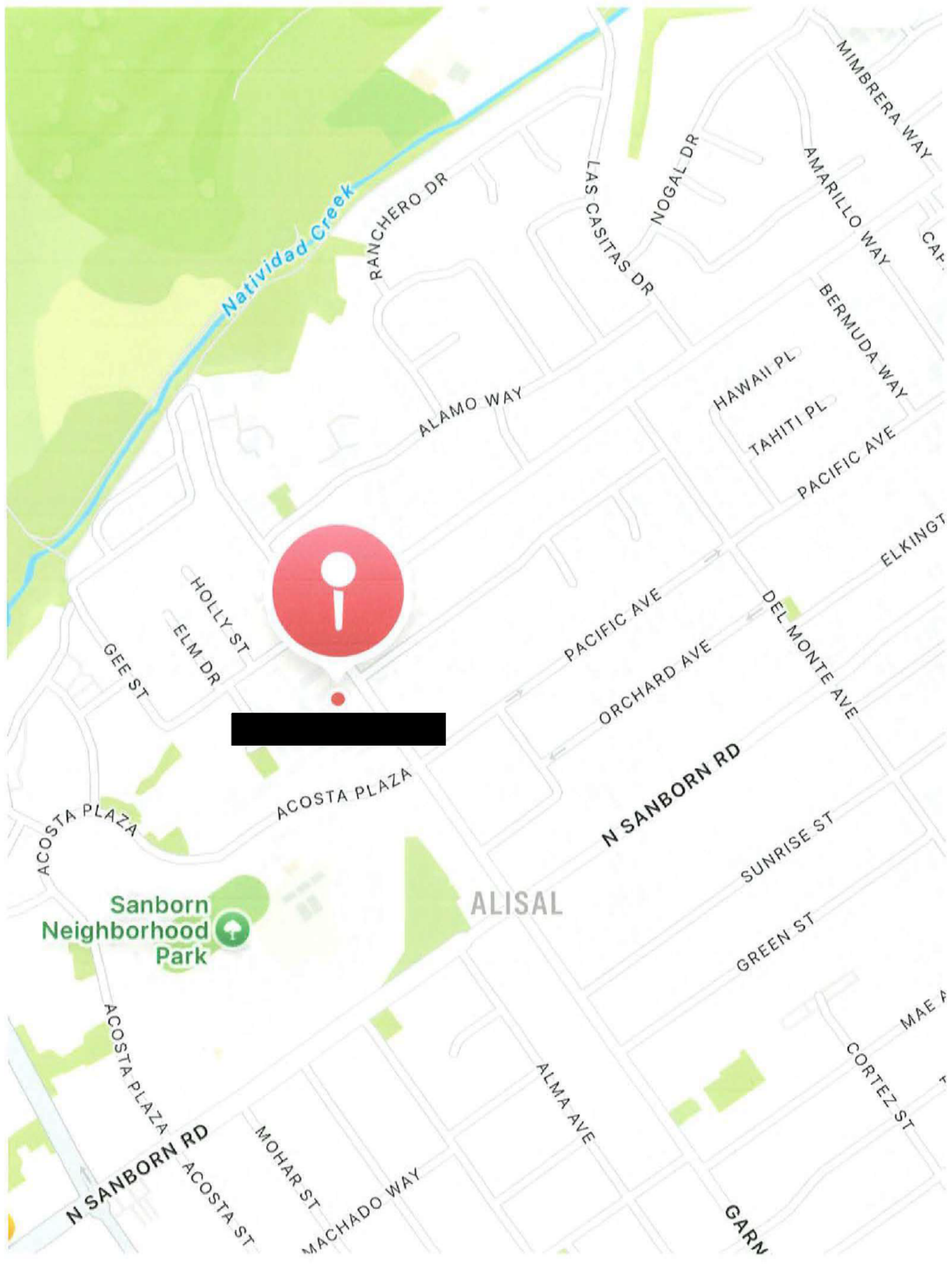
Note:

1. Future Expansion Area (FEA) interceptors are shown conceptually in the North Beronda Future Growth Area that would accommodate future flows if the City serves a future area to the north (see Section 6.4.4 for discussion).

Figure 7-1

Recommended Sanitary Sewer System Improvements  
Salinas Sewer System Master Plan

CDM



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CITY OF SALINAS

SEP 17 2025

ADMINISTRATION

Parcel number 0 [REDACTED]

Date 9/10/2025

Signature [REDACTED]

**I object to the City's proposed sewer rate increase. The proposed increase in sewer rates fails to comply with Proposition 218 in California because the increase violates certain fundamental requirements designed to protect taxpayers and property owners.**

- **Failure to Demonstrate Proportionality:** Under Proposition 218, a sewer rate increase must not exceed the *proportional* cost of providing the service to a particular property or customer. This means that the amount charged for sewer services should reasonably reflect the actual costs associated with serving that specific parcel or customer, and not be disproportionately higher to subsidize other customers or unrelated services.

According to the site map, no improvements are recommended for the above address area. Therefore the rate increase is in violation of Proposition 218, because it does not reasonably reflect the actual costs associated with serving that specific parcel or area.

Therefore, It should not be responsible for costs of the elsewhere Improvements and extensions recommended.

Any relevant planned costs should be paid by the respective areas in need. As well as through municipal bonds that will be the responsibility of developers to repay , to be addressed at the time of planned development.

- According to Figure 7-1 The Recommended Sanitary Sewer System Improvements Salinas Sewer System Master Plan
- The property listed above is in Existing Gravity Line with a existing pump station that are not in need of improvements and should have the maintenance funds existing from current rates



DIV-2

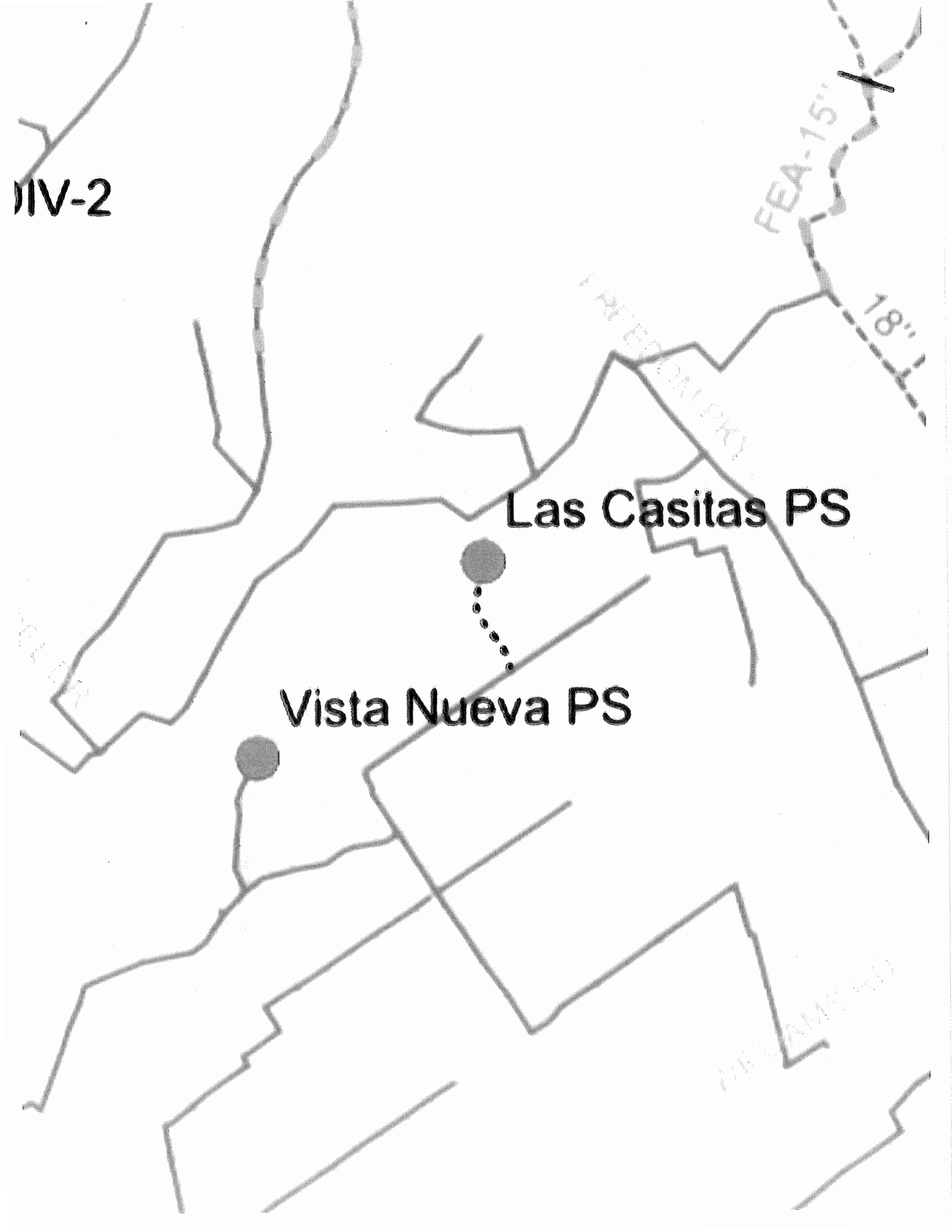
FEA-15" / 18"

Las Casitas PS

Vista Nueva PS

ARREDON PRO

WILCAMERO



Natividad Creek

RANCHERO DR

LAS CASITAS DR

NOGAL DR

MIMBRERA WAY  
AMARILLO WAY

ALAMO WAY

BERMUDA WAY  
HAWAII PL  
TAHITI PL  
PACIFIC AVE

ELKINGT



HOLLY ST  
ELM DR  
GEE ST

PACIFIC AVE

ORCHARD AVE

DEL MONTE AVE

ACOSTA PLAZA

N SANBORN RD

SUNRISE ST

ALISAL

GREEN ST

MAE A

CORTEZ ST

ALMA AVE

GARN

ACOSTA PLAZA

Sanborn  
Neighborhood  
Park



ACOSTA PLAZA  
N SANBORN RD

ACOSTA ST

MOHAR ST

MACHADO WAY

