

Notice of Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Sanitary Sewer Rate Adoption

Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

City Hall Rotunda at 200 Lincoln Ave, Salinas, CA 93901

In person or on Zoom.

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS AND RATEPAYERS

The City of Salinas (City) hereby notifies property owners and ratepayers of the proposed adjustments to sewer rates, and their right to object, protest, or provide comments to the City. This Notice is provided in accordance with California Constitution Article XIII D, Section 6 (Proposition 218). The Salinas City Council will consider the proposed rate adjustment at a **Public Hearing at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 23, 2025, in the City Hall Rotunda at 200 Lincoln Ave, Salinas, CA 93901.**

Hearing impaired or TTY/TDD text telephone users may contact the City by dialing 711 for the California Relay Service (CRS) or by telephoning any other service providers' CRS telephone number.

All those interested are invited to appear at the time and place of the Public Hearing on September 23, 2025, to give oral or written comments regarding the proposed rate adjustments. The City Council will hear and consider oral testimony and written materials submitted regarding proposed rate adjustments at the Public Hearing. The City Council has the authority to adjust the proposed sewer rate changes in response to oral testimony and written materials submitted for consideration, provided any adjustments cannot increase rates beyond those proposed in this Notice.

If adopted by City Council, the proposed sewer rates described in this Notice will become effective on October 1, 2025, with annual adjustments each July 1st through 2029. The City will provide notice of any authorized annual adjustment to rates, not less than 30 days before the effective date of the adjustment, per Government Code Section 53756.

Maintaining Salinas' Sanitary Sewer System

The City of Salinas must continually invest in its sanitary sewer system to maintain safe and reliable service. The City's source of revenue to cover the cost of providing those sewer services is through sewer rates, with every dollar from those rates going toward the operation, maintenance, repair, and improvement of the sewer system. Periodic evaluations and adjustments to the rates are necessary to address infrastructure needs, inflation and regulatory mandates. Responsible financial planning and appropriate funding are essential to maintaining and improving our sewer system.

The City's Maintenance Division maintains approximately 280 miles of gravity pipelines in the sanitary sewer collection system and 11 sanitary sewer lift stations. The sewer system plays a vital role in safeguarding water quality and public health. The sewer system consists of underground pipes, manholes, lift stations, and other infrastructure that transport sewage from homes, businesses, and industries to the regional wastewater treatment plant, where it is treated and safely released back into the environment.

REVENUES ARE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN AND REPAIR THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM

To ensure adequate revenue for maintaining, operating and improving the sanitary sewer system, the City commissioned a Rate Study. The Rate Study documents support for the proposed rates for each customer category, the basis upon which the rates were calculated, and the reasons for the rates to cover the cost of providing sewer services. The study estimates a total of \$114.8 million is required to fund capital improvements. Funds will be provided through increased sewer rates and bonds.

The Rate Study is available online at <https://www.cityofsalinas.org/Your-Government/Departments/Public-Works/Sanitary-Rate-Study-2025>.

PROPOSED SEWER RATE INCREASES

The City is proposing five years of sewer rate increases, as set forth in Table 1 and Table 2:

Table 1: Proposed Sewer Rate per EDU per Month

City Code	Description	Units	Sewer Rate per EDU per Month				
			FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29	FY 2029-30
001	Business/Government	Location/Each Business (\$ for every 10 employees)	\$ 12.75	\$ 13.01	\$ 13.27	\$ 13.53	\$ 13.80
102	Residence	Each Living Unit	\$ 16.35	\$ 16.68	\$ 17.01	\$ 17.35	\$ 17.70
105	Multi Residence - Apts	Each Living Unit	\$ 16.35	\$ 16.68	\$ 17.01	\$ 17.35	\$ 17.70
107	Condominium	Each Living Unit	\$ 16.35	\$ 16.68	\$ 17.01	\$ 17.35	\$ 17.70
109	Retirement Complex	Each Living Unit	\$ 16.35	\$ 16.68	\$ 17.01	\$ 17.35	\$ 17.70
221	Hotel/Motel	Each Room	\$ 7.19	\$ 7.34	\$ 7.48	\$ 7.63	\$ 7.79
222	Bed & Breakfast	Each Room	\$ 4.69	\$ 4.78	\$ 4.88	\$ 4.97	\$ 5.07
231	Supermarket	Location	\$ 69.54	\$ 70.93	\$ 72.35	\$ 73.80	\$ 75.27
241	Medical	Each Licensed Physician	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.34	\$ 17.69	\$ 18.04	\$ 18.41
242	Dental	Each Licensed Dentist	\$ 23.44	\$ 23.90	\$ 24.38	\$ 24.87	\$ 25.37
243	Rest Home/ Convalescent	Each Bed of Licensed Capacity	\$ 4.69	\$ 4.78	\$ 4.88	\$ 4.97	\$ 5.07
244	Surgery Center/ General Hospital	Each Bed of Licensed Capacity	\$ 27.90	\$ 28.46	\$ 29.03	\$ 29.61	\$ 30.20
245	Animal Hospital	Location/Each Licensed Business	\$ 31.83	\$ 32.46	\$ 33.11	\$ 33.78	\$ 34.45
261	Restaurant - 1 Meal	Each Restaurant Seat	\$ 0.65	\$ 0.67	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.69	\$ 0.71
262	Restaurant - 2 Meals	Each Restaurant Seat	\$ 0.98	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.02	\$ 1.04	\$ 1.06
263	Restaurant - 3 Meals	Each Restaurant Seat	\$ 1.85	\$ 1.89	\$ 1.93	\$ 1.97	\$ 2.01
264	Restaurant w/ Bar	Each Restaurant Seat	\$ 1.85	\$ 1.89	\$ 1.93	\$ 1.97	\$ 2.01
265	Bar	Location/Each Business	\$ 27.69	\$ 28.24	\$ 28.80	\$ 29.38	\$ 29.97
266	Night Club	Location/Each Business	\$ 82.84	\$ 84.50	\$ 86.19	\$ 87.91	\$ 89.67
267	Take-Out Small	1 Cash Register or Checkout Line	\$ 30.85	\$ 31.46	\$ 32.09	\$ 32.74	\$ 33.39
268	Take-Out Medium	2 or 3 Cash Registers or Checkout Lines	\$ 75.97	\$ 77.49	\$ 79.04	\$ 80.62	\$ 82.24
269	Take-Out Large	4 or More Cash Registers or Checkout Lines	\$ 138.43	\$ 141.20	\$ 144.02	\$ 146.90	\$ 149.84
270	Bakery	Location/Each Business	\$ 25.07	\$ 25.57	\$ 26.08	\$ 26.60	\$ 27.14
281	Theater	Per Screen @ Each Location	\$ 41.09	\$ 41.91	\$ 42.75	\$ 43.61	\$ 44.48

City Code	Description	Units	Sewer Rate per EDU per Month				
			FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29	FY 2029-30
282	Bowling Center	Location/Each Business	\$ 124.91	\$ 127.41	\$ 129.96	\$ 132.56	\$ 135.21
283	Gym - 500 Members	\$ for every 500 members	\$ 12.75	\$ 13.01	\$ 13.27	\$ 13.53	\$ 13.80
292	School - Pre Grade 6	School Population	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.23	\$ 0.23	\$ 0.24
293	School - Grade 7 -College	School Population	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.45	\$ 0.46	\$ 0.47
294	School - Boarding	School Population	\$ 4.36	\$ 4.45	\$ 4.54	\$ 4.63	\$ 4.72
295	Instructional Facility	Location/Each Business	\$ 12.75	\$ 13.01	\$ 13.27	\$ 13.53	\$ 13.80
296	Church - Small (1-100 Members)	Per 100 members	\$ 12.75	\$ 13.01	\$ 13.27	\$ 13.53	\$ 13.80
297	Church - Large (> 100 Members)	Per 100 members	\$ 25.51	\$ 26.02	\$ 26.54	\$ 27.07	\$ 27.61
301	Photo Developer / Printer	\$ for every 10 employees	\$ 12.75	\$ 13.01	\$ 13.27	\$ 13.53	\$ 13.80
311	Laboratory - 10 employees	\$ for every 10 employees	\$ 12.75	\$ 13.01	\$ 13.27	\$ 13.53	\$ 13.80
331	Garage Repair	\$ for every 10 employees	\$ 12.21	\$ 12.45	\$ 12.70	\$ 12.96	\$ 13.21
341	Paint Shop – 10 employees	\$ for every 10 employees	\$ 12.75	\$ 13.01	\$ 13.27	\$ 13.53	\$ 13.80
353	Dry Cleaner	Location/Each Business	\$ 42.07	\$ 42.92	\$ 43.77	\$ 44.65	\$ 45.54
354	Laundromat	Each Washing Machine	\$ 11.12	\$ 11.34	\$ 11.57	\$ 11.80	\$ 12.03

Table 2: Proposed Sewer Rate per EDU per Month for Special Users

City Code	Description	Units	Sewer Rate per EDU per Month				
			FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29	FY 2029-30
351	Industrial Laundry	Based on Flow (GPD x Sewer Rate)	\$0.109	\$0.111	\$0.113	\$0.116	\$0.118
352	Commercial Laundry	Based on Flow (GPD x Sewer Rate)	\$0.109	\$0.111	\$0.113	\$0.116	\$0.118
366	Car Wash	Based on Flow (GPD x Sewer Rate)	\$0.109	\$0.111	\$0.113	\$0.116	\$0.118
367	Truck/Bus Was	Based on Flow (GPD x Sewer Rate)	\$0.109	\$0.111	\$0.113	\$0.116	\$0.118
401	Special User	Based on Flow (GPD x Sewer Rate)	\$0.109	\$0.111	\$0.113	\$0.116	\$0.118
403	Chemical Pesticides	Based on Flow (GPD x Sewer Rate)	\$0.109	\$0.111	\$0.113	\$0.116	\$0.118
405	Water Softener	Based on Flow (GPD x Sewer Rate)	\$0.109	\$0.111	\$0.113	\$0.116	\$0.118
406	Food Processor	Based on Flow (GPD x Sewer Rate)	\$0.109	\$0.111	\$0.113	\$0.116	\$0.118
407	Rec/Sports Facility	Based on Flow (GPD x Sewer Rate)	\$0.109	\$0.111	\$0.113	\$0.116	\$0.118
408	Inedible Renderer	Based on Flow (GPD x Sewer Rate)	\$0.109	\$0.111	\$0.113	\$0.116	\$0.118
410	Groundwater Discharger	Based on Flow (GPD x Sewer Rate)	\$0.109	\$0.111	\$0.113	\$0.116	\$0.118

SUBMITTING A PROTEST OR AN OBJECTION

A property owner has a right to submit to the City a written protest or a written objection to the proposed adjustment to sewer rates based on laws that are commonly referred to as “Proposition 218” (including California Constitution Article XIII D, Section 6; implementing

legislation at Government Code sections 53750 through 53759.2, and judicial decisions interpreting those laws). The proposed increases in sewer rates are considered fees for “property-related services” under those laws.

HOW TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN PROTEST

Any property owner or rate-paying tenant has the right to protest the proposed sewer rates. The protest **must be in writing**, it must include the property service address and/or the assessor’s parcel number, the eligible individual’s name (property owner or tenant), a statement to the effect of “I protest the proposed sewer rate adjustments,” and an original signature. Written protests **must only be submitted to the City by mail or personal delivery** to: City of Salinas, City Clerk, 200 Lincoln Ave. Salinas, CA 93901. **Telephone, e-mail, and fax protests will not be accepted.**

All protests must be received by the City Council in writing before the conclusion of the Public Hearing. Any protest received after the conclusion of the Public Hearing will not be accepted or considered. Any oral comments will not be counted as a protest. Only one written protest per affected property will be counted.

At the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the City Council will consider adopting the proposed rates and charges only if the City does not receive a “majority protest.” There is a “majority protest” if the City receives timely written protests from property owners or ratepayers representing a majority (50% +1) of the properties served by the City. If there is a majority protest, the City is prohibited by law from approving the updated sewer rates at that time.

EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES – HOW TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION

Any property owner or rate-paying tenant has the right to submit a written objection to the proposed sewer rates. In order for a written objection to be timely and effective, it must comply with all of the following requirements:

- Written objections **must be in writing and mailed or hand delivered to the City at: City of Salinas, City Clerk, 200 Lincoln Ave, Salinas CA, 93901.**
- The City Clerk must receive the written objections by **no later than September 23, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.**
- Written objections must include the following information:
 - o Objectors name, parcel number and/or service address.
 - o A statement that the communication constitutes a written objection to the City’s proposed sewer rates.
 - o A description of the substance of the objection, with sufficient specificity to allow the City to respond in writing. The objection must state the specific grounds for concerns with the proposed sewer rates, and why they do not comply with Proposition 218 or other relevant law. The objection should include the desired resolution or outcome. A statement that the proposed sewer rates violate Proposition 218 without an explanation as to the basis of the claim are not sufficient to constitute a timely written objection.

At the Public Hearing, after considering all timely written objections and written responses prepared by City staff, the City Council will determine whether clarifications or further review or reduction or abandonment of the proposed sewer rates is warranted.

Limitations for Challenging Proposed Rates

You are hereby notified that, in order to file a judicial action or legal proceeding to challenge the proposed rates described in this Notice, you must file a timely written legal objection, and you must commence the action or proceeding within 120 days of the City's approval of the rates. Failure to submit a timely written legal objection bars any right to challenge the proposed rates through a judicial action or legal proceeding. (Government Code Section 53759.1(b).) There is a 120-day statute of limitations for judicially challenging the rates set forth in this Notice that runs from the date of the City action to approve the rates, and any legal action is limited to the issues raised in a timely legal objection. (Government Code Section 53759.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit: <https://www.cityofsalinas.org/Your-Government/Departments/Public-Works/Sanitary-Rate-Study-2024>; or call (831) 758-7241; or email pubworks@ci.salinas.ca.us.