

Proposed Changes to Sewer Service Charges



Chico Water Pollution Control Plant

**Notice of Public Hearing
September 15, 2026
6:00 PM**

**Chico City Council Chambers
421 Main Street
Chico, CA 95928**

Cambios propuestos en las tarifas del servicio
de alcantarillado. Para obtener más
información, visite el sitio web de la:

www.chicoca.gov

City of Chico
Phone: (530) 894-4200
www.chicoca.gov



City of Chico
PO Box 3420
Chico, CA 95927

[NAME]

[MAILING ADDRESS]

[CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE]

Notice of Public Hearing

On September 15, 2026, or as soon as possible thereafter as the matter may be heard, the Chico City Council will hold a public hearing during its regularly scheduled meeting to consider proposed changes to sewer service charges described in this notice.

This notice has been sent to all property owners of record and customers that receive sewer service provided by the City of Chico.

What wastewater services does the City provide?

The City of Chico provides safe, reliable wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal services. Wastewater from homes and businesses is carried through the City's underground sanitary sewer collection system and is treated at the City's Water Pollution Control Plant.

The City owns and maintains a network of roughly 288 miles of sanitary sewer pipelines, 18 pump stations, and the Water Pollution Control Plant.

What is the purpose of sewer service charges?

Sewer service charges recover the cost of maintenance, operation, replacement, and improvement of the City sewerage facilities used for the collection, treatment, and disposal of sewage.

What is the basis for the proposed charges?

Increased operational costs and major capital improvements are necessary to address critical condition, regulatory, and capacity-driven infrastructure needs. Proposition 218 requires utility charges to correspond to the cost associated with providing the services, and that customers within each user classification pay charges not exceeding the proportional cost of services attributable to that parcel. The City retained a third-party consultant, Carollo Engineers, to prepare a Sewer Rate Study that resulted in rate recommendations to sufficiently recover revenue for infrastructure repair and replacement needs as well as day-to-day operational services, in compliance with Proposition 218. The Sewer Rate Study report is available on the City website:

<https://chicoca.gov/Sewer-Rate-Study>

What are the proposed charges and when would they go into effect?

The proposed charges are presented in this notice. Sewer service charges for residential and commercial customers consist of a fixed monthly charge and volumetric rates based on winter water consumption measured by California Water Service Company in hundred cubic feet (HCF) increments and provided to the City.

The fixed monthly charge is assessed on a per unit basis for residential customers and per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) for commercial customers. EDUs are calculated for each commercial customer based on flow and customer class.

The volumetric rate is charged per HCF of each customer's average water consumption of the previous winter water consumption period, which runs from December through March. This winter average is an industry-standard approach as a proxy for sewer flow since low irrigation in this period means most water consumed reaches the sewer. All residential customers will be charged the same rate (\$/HCF). Commercial volumetric rates differ by classification proportional to their sewer system pressures.

The rates will adjust significantly in years 1 and 2 (November 2026 and July 2027) and increase 3% annually in the subsequent three years.

What is the process for sewer service charges to be changed?

Chico City Council will hold a public hearing on September 15, 2026, or as soon as possible thereafter. This hearing will consider adoption of the proposed rate schedule. At the hearing, Council will accept and consider all written Protests and hear all oral comments. After the public hearing, if there are written Protests submitted and not withdrawn that represent a majority of the parcels that receive sewer service, the City Council cannot adopt the proposed rate adjustments. Oral comments are not eligible for determining the existence of a majority protest. The proposed rate schedule sets a maximum threshold. If additional funding opportunities become available, the City may re-evaluate revenue sufficiency.

How do I object to the legality of the proposed charges under the Proposition 218 process?

Written Objections must include the specific grounds for alleging noncompliance of the proposed rates with the Proposition 218 process. Written Objections may be emailed, mailed or personally delivered to the City Clerk at PO BOX 3420 Chico CA 95927 or delivered in person to the City Clerk at 411 Main Street Chico CA 95928 and must be received by the City Clerk by 5:00 p.m., September 8, 2026. Written Objections shall include name and address/parcel number of the objector, signature and email or address to which a response should be sent. This is known as an Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies requirement and is separate from the Proposition 218 majority protest process described below.

All written Objections must be submitted within the written Objection period. Failure to submit a timely Objection in writing bars any right to challenge the proposed rates through a legal proceeding. Note that this deadline for submitting a written Objection is one week earlier than the deadline for submitting a written Protest. The City will review each written Objection and respond in writing to all timely written submittals.

How do I protest the proposed charges?

Owners of record of real property who pay sewer rates, as well as customers who will be directly responsible for paying the charge, may file a written Protest against the proposed rate adjustments. Only one written Protest per parcel shall be counted in calculating a majority protest per Proposition 218. Written Protests will be treated as public records once opened.

Written Protests may be mailed to the City Clerk at PO BOX 3420 Chico CA 95927 or delivered in person to the City Clerk at 411 Main Street Chico CA 95928. Protests will be received until close of business (5:00 PM) on the public hearing date. Protests may also be submitted at the Council Meeting before close of the public hearing. To be counted, Protests must include: the rate or charge being protested, your name, parcel number and/or service address, and your signature. Protests submitted by email or other electronic means will not be counted as formal written Protests.

Proposed Rate Schedule:

Customer Class	26/27 ¹	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31
FIXED MONTHLY CHARGE²					
Residential					
House	\$32.00	\$49.60	\$51.09	\$52.62	\$54.20
Multi-Family	\$25.60	\$39.68	\$40.87	\$42.10	\$43.36
Duplex	\$28.80	\$44.64	\$45.98	\$47.36	\$48.78
Commercial					
Bars w/o Dining	\$32.00	\$49.60	\$51.09	\$52.62	\$54.20
Brewery	\$32.00	\$49.60	\$51.09	\$52.62	\$54.20
Car Wash	\$32.00	\$49.60	\$51.09	\$52.62	\$54.20
Dorms	\$32.00	\$49.60	\$51.09	\$52.62	\$54.20
Hospital & Convalescent	\$32.00	\$49.60	\$51.09	\$52.62	\$54.20
Hotels w/o Dining	\$32.00	\$49.60	\$51.09	\$52.62	\$54.20
Hotels w/Dining	\$32.00	\$49.60	\$51.09	\$52.62	\$54.20
Industrial	\$32.00	\$49.60	\$51.09	\$52.62	\$54.20
Laundry	\$32.00	\$49.60	\$51.09	\$52.62	\$54.20
Laundromat	\$32.00	\$49.60	\$51.09	\$52.62	\$54.20
Markets/Bakeries	\$32.00	\$49.60	\$51.09	\$52.62	\$54.20
Mortuary	\$32.00	\$49.60	\$51.09	\$52.62	\$54.20
Restaurants	\$32.00	\$49.60	\$51.09	\$52.62	\$54.20
School	\$32.00	\$49.60	\$51.09	\$52.62	\$54.20
All Other	\$32.00	\$49.60	\$51.09	\$52.62	\$54.20
VOLUMETRIC RATES PER HCF³					
Residential					
House	\$3.11	\$4.82	\$4.96	\$5.11	\$5.26
Multi-Family	\$3.11	\$4.82	\$4.96	\$5.11	\$5.26
Duplex	\$3.11	\$4.82	\$4.96	\$5.11	\$5.26
Commercial					
Bars w/o Dining	\$3.19	\$4.94	\$5.09	\$5.24	\$5.40
Brewery	\$6.53	\$10.12	\$10.42	\$10.73	\$11.05
Car Wash	\$2.46	\$3.81	\$3.92	\$4.04	\$4.16
Dorms	\$2.92	\$4.53	\$4.67	\$4.81	\$4.95
Hospital & Convalescent	\$2.90	\$4.50	\$4.64	\$4.78	\$4.92
Hotels w/o Dining	\$3.12	\$4.84	\$4.99	\$5.14	\$5.29
Hotels w/Dining	\$5.50	\$8.53	\$8.79	\$9.05	\$9.32
Industrial	\$5.84	\$9.05	\$9.32	\$9.60	\$9.89
Laundry	\$2.67	\$4.14	\$4.26	\$4.39	\$4.52
Laundromat	\$6.60	\$10.23	\$10.54	\$10.86	\$11.19
Markets/Bakeries	\$6.82	\$10.57	\$10.89	\$11.22	\$11.56
Mortuary	\$6.54	\$10.14	\$10.44	\$10.75	\$11.07
Restaurants	\$2.60	\$4.03	\$4.15	\$4.27	\$4.40
School	\$3.08	\$4.77	\$4.91	\$5.06	\$5.21
All Other	\$3.08	\$4.77	\$4.91	\$5.06	\$5.21

1. FY 26/27 rates will take effect in November 2026. Increases will occur in July of each fiscal year moving forward.
2. The fixed monthly charge is assessed on a per unit basis for residential customers and per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) for commercial customers. EDUs are calculated for each commercial customer based on flow and customer class.
3. HCF = hundred cubic feet, equal to 7.48 gallons of water based on average winter consumption. If the property is not metered by CalWater, or lacks sufficient metered data, then the average consumption for the applicable classification will be used to calculate the volumetric portion of the rate. (7.20 HCF for Single Family Residential, 5.50 for Multifamily).
Multi-family is defined as structures with adjoining, or common walls. All others shall be single-family (except duplexes).

To estimate your bill, use the City's online estimated sewer bill calculator here:

<https://chicoca.gov/Sewer-Rate-Study>